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'The girl came to me crying'

INVESTIGATION

Transit driver saved victim from sexual assault

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

A Calgary Transit driver was right on schedule, when his bus caused an attacker to flee the scene, saving a woman from sexual assault — or worse.

Amandeep Hunjan said he slowed his shuttle-style bus at the intersection of Sandstone Drive NW and Berkshire Boulevard NW, near the bus terminal, after he saw something suspicious.

"A guy coming from the shelter, when he saw me, and I saw him ... he started running," remembered Hunjan. "When I got close to the shelter I saw a girl on the ground. I came to a stop and the girl came to me crying."

Hunjan radio called control to let them know there was an emergency. Trying to keep the woman calm he asked her what happened, and gave her some water.

"She told me the guy punched her in the nose," Hunjan said. The woman told him once on the ground the man tried to sexually assault her. "I saw the guy, so I tried to remember what clothes he was wearing and I was on the phone with control telling them all those things."

Ambulance and police arrived on scene, and started their investigation. The man is described as white, between 18 and 20 years old, five feet 10 inches tall with a medium build. He was wearing a black baseball cap, a grey hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

"I feel good," Hunjan said. "That's a shameful act."

Brian Whitelaw, Calgary Transit superintendent of public safety and enforcement, said from their perspective this is a life-saving situation. He said they aren't sure what the man's motive was, and had the woman been left alone the situation could have been much worse for her.

"He prevented the situation from being, in my opinion, much worse," said Whitelaw. "There's onboard video the operator activated last night, we'll be going through and taking a look to see if it provides any evidence."

Police are asking anyone with information about this crime is asked to call police at 403-266-1234.

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Refugee chef — now caterer — brings taste of Syria to Calgary

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5 QUESTIONS COMING OUT OF THE BYELECTION

With PC candidate Prab Gill's win in the Calgary Greenway byelection, you may have some questions about Alberta's political state of affairs. We've asked three experts to share their thoughts on hot-button topics.

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

1 Are the PCs back?

Not really, according to political experts. It's like they won a hockey match, not the series, according to **Mount Royal University political scientist Duane Bratt**. Still, he adds, it was a needed win to boost morale. **Political Strategist Stephen Carter** agrees: He says the party won, but not by much. "They certainly didn't strengthen their position," he says, referring to Gill's lower share of the votes compared to former PC MLA Manmeet Bhullar's during the 2015 general election. "Had they lost, it would've been really bad," he says. "But this was definitely not a landslide win." **University of Calgary political scientist Melanee Thomas** agrees — she says the PCs aren't back, but they're not gone.

2 Is Unite the Right dead?

Bratt thinks the movement received a blow, not the knock-out some claim. Carter, however, thinks the movement is long dead. He says there aren't many right-wing people in Alberta, and the Wildrose doesn't understand that argument. However, Bratt thinks there are other ridings may need the two parties to merge so conservatives win. If anything, it's become a monologue instead of a dialogue, Bratt adds. Thomas says the movement is now officially a shot in the dark — although some members may want it, the two conservative parties appear at odds with each other in the legislature.

3 Is this trouble for the NDP?

All politicos say no — it's just a byelection, and the NDP is still the government. Bratt thinks the party will take a harder hit when it releases a red-ink budget in April, forecasted to feature a $10 billion deficit.

Carter says it's a bad result for the NDP, but adds it's too early to say if this means Calgary is no longer a fan of orange Kool-Aid.

He says governments aren't usually strong during their first year in office, when weighty policies are introduced.

Thomas says the vote count shows there was very little daylight between the PCs, Wildrose, NDP and Liberals. "They were not great, but not bad," she says.

ALL PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 What about Liberal gains?

All pundits thought the Liberals made great gains but it's still David Swann sitting alone in the house. Carter says the Liberals' strength came from Karbani's base of supporters in Taradale, where he sits as the association's president. An endorsement from Calgary Skyview MP Darshan Kang certainly he helped, he adds. Thomas thinks Trudeaumania lingers in the riding, so that's why Karbani managed to squeak ahead of the NDP and slightly behind the Wildrose. Bratt says Federal Liberal allegiance and Karbani's resumé helped.

5 Did we see a 'Bhullar effect'?

Carter says Gill managed to take a smidgen of Bhullar's legacy, but is nowhere near as popular. Bratt says the PCs may have garnered up to 200 votes due to Bhullar's legacy, but it was just a small win. Thomas thinks Bhullar had little to do with Gill's win — that's why the four candidates were so close. During the 2015 general, she says people voted for Bhullar for who he was, not necessarily for the Tories. Plus, the constituents' love for a particular candidate doesn't mean voters will devote themselves to the party brand, Thomas adds.

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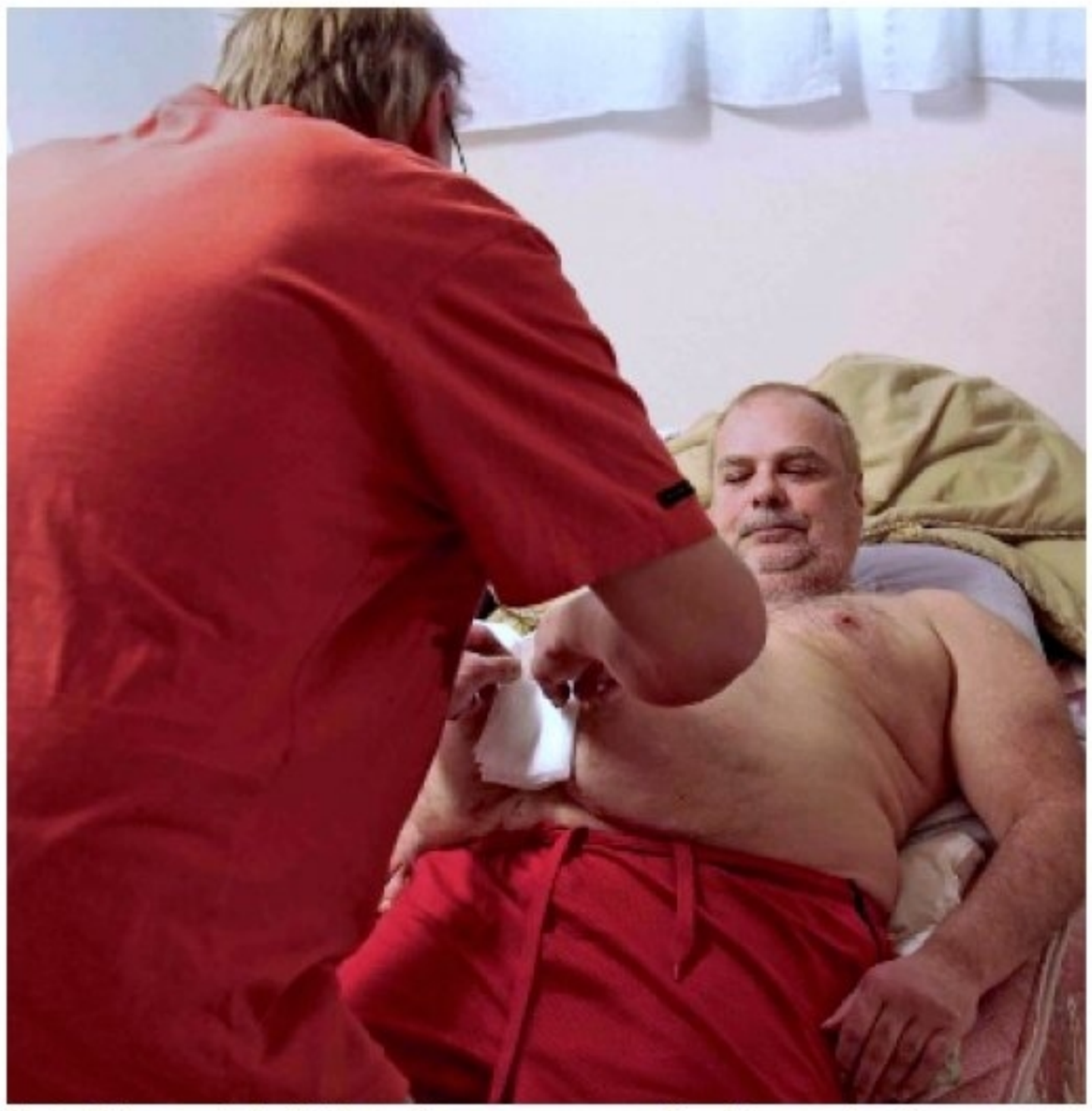

Chris, 60, lays on the bed in his North East apartment as a friend changes dressing on a wound. Chris, who spent five years on the streets, is now facing cancer. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

Man with cancer relies on friends

DISABLED LIVING

Wishes he had a scooter to get around in his final days

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Pulling in a six-figure salary now doesn't protect you from homelessness later, and Chris would know.

Nowadays he'd settle for a scooter just to help him be more mobile to enjoy what could be his final days.

For years he's been suffering from colitis, which has left him unable to work. Now he's also dealing with cancer. He taken some rounds of chemo, but the doctors say there's really no way to treat the cancer any more.

The 60-year-old Calgarian had his own business in the 90s, with a staff of seven. His wife was an accountant.

But when his marriage fell apart, it wasn't long before he found himself on the street, and turning to the Mustard Seed for help.

"They still give me a food hamper every week, and dental service when I need it," he said.

Chris — who asked up not to use his last name — spent about five years on the street before finding a place to live. He now stays in a tiny basement apartment in the north-east with two other people. His room has a bed, a small kitchen table and a TV perched on a dresser.

Chris relies on his roommate and friends for help with treating the open wound in his stomach from a surgery two years ago. He can't reach it himself anymore.

His friend Cameron offers to help him change a bandage. Chris lies back while Cameron removes a woman's maxi-pad, and replaces it with some sterile gauze and tape. Chris says the maxi-pads make good bandages.

As he dresses the wound, Cameron explains that Chris has always been there to help him out, and now he's returning the favour.

"Before it was worse — after his operation — you needed to drain stuff. It was a lot worse," said Cameron.

Chris says that all things considered, he's satisfied with the medical treatment and assistance he receives. He's been able to have his medication paid for through Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). He's also able to get to appointments with help from Access Calgary, and through a ride service Alpha House offers.

He now has a home-care nurse coming two days a week, which Chris is grateful for, although Cameron believes it's not often enough.

"He can't do this stuff himself," he says.

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Minister's comments confuse Calgarians

INFRASTRUCTURE

Talked of outer ring road that won't be built for 60 years

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The first rule about the outer ring road is we don't talk about the outer ring road — at least not for a few decades.

Minister Brian Mason's comments Wednesday about the mythical "outer ring road" had some people scratching their heads.

According to his office, the minister was asked about urban sprawl and protecting agricultural land at the AAMDC. His response made a passing mention of the department's talks on an outer ring road, something that's been part of a discussion on what needs Calgary may have three decades from now.

Minister of Transportation Brian Mason. METRO FILE

The move to publicly talk on a project that's not in a design phase, and won't be planned or needed for another 60 or more years baffled Coun. Shane Keating, who is the chair of the city's Transportation and Transit committee.

"I'm not sure where he's going with it," said Keating. "I know there's always pre-planning. But that's usually done in-house … You don't start publicly talking about a second ring road that will certainly not happen for, my guess is, 50 or 60 years at the earliest, when you have other issues which are so much more pressing than that." Keating said he hasn't heard about the idea himself and was surprised to see the minister talking openly about it.

"We're having a hard time even getting the provincial government to say: 'you know what, we support the Green Line, when the application comes in and it fits the criteria, we'll fund it." said Keating. "We can't even get that out of them yet they're willing to talk publicly about an outer ring road — I think it's slightly misplaced."

He said if there's a need, there's no question the government should be planning for an outer ring road, but they have only committed to one eighth of the current ring road project.

TRANSPORT

Engage portal rolls out online for BRT

The city's new engagement portal is now open, and the first test subject is the controversial southwest Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

City of Calgary staff have been hurriedly finishing up an online engagement tool after tempers boiled over at live public engagement sessions on the SW BRT.

After a Feb. 23 exchange that saw city staff involved with angry citizens, Mayor Naheed Nenshi called off the public engagement, instead opting for online engagement in the ongoing transportation project.

The city touts the "Engage portal" as a way for citizens to have "purposeful and meaningful dialogue on City projects, which will be used to help influence city decisions. They say it offers flexibility so Calgarians can offer up their opinions, feedback or information on city topics at their convenience.

"This is a new way for Calgarians to learn about and provide input on city projects," said Cindy Pickett, Director of Customer Service and Communications at The City.

> **"This is a new way for Calgarians to … provide input on city projects**
> Cindy Pickett

The online tool has been in development for the past six months and the city has decided the SW BRT is the ideal project to deploy the system.

"The Bus Rapid Transit program contains initiatives that impact all Calgarians, and is a key connector for the long-term transportation network for Calgarians," says Michael Thompson, Director of Transportation Infrastructure. "We are proud to be the initial project for this new tool, and encourage all Calgarians to check out the BRT program page on the Engage portal." METRO

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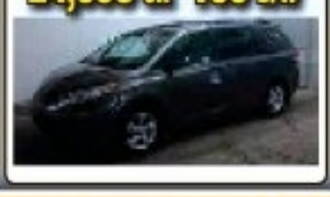

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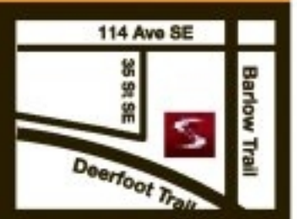

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Identity theft ring busted

SECURITY

Police advise caution when using Internet for finances

Stephanie Joe
For Metro | Edmonton

Police are warning Calgarians to be more vigilant on the Internet, after online identity thieves stole credit information and then made purchases.

Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul of the Calgary Police Service's (CPS) economic crime unit said Wednesday that the suspects are believed to have purchased credit card data off of the Internet or "deep web."

"The deep web is a portion of the Internet where there is secret information or criminal-element information," said Verheul. "There are things like identities or credit card information for sale under that. It's becoming common, unfortunately."

Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul shows items seized from an identity theft ring. STEPHANIE JOE/FOR METRO

Once they applied for a credit card, the suspects would fraudulently apply for a Canada Post mail redirect from the victim's address to a post office box controlled by the suspects. When they received the credit cards, officers said, they used them to make high-end purchases, including electronics and car parts.

> **You shouldn't be signing onto your banking ... and using public Wi-Fi.**
> Staff Sgt. Kristie Verheul

To prevent identity theft from happening in the first place, Verheul said, people should practise safe Internet behaviour.

"When purchasing something online make sure you do it in a safe manner and clear your cookies (afterward)," she said. "You shouldn't be signing onto your banking information and using public Wi-Fi all at the same time."

On March 17, police raided two homes, one in the 100 block of Penworth Green SE and the other in the 300 block of 10 Street NW.

Seized items included a credit card embosser, mag strip encoder, credit card blanks, identity documents and more than $2,500 cash.

A third search warrant was executed on a 2007 Range Rover, which police believe was used in the commission of the fraud offences and which also has fraudulently obtained vehicle parts installed.

Francis Mbuya, 32, of Calgary, has been arrested His charges include identity theft, possession of forged credit card data, fraud and possession of stolen property. He's scheduled to appear in court on May 12.

Three individuals are wanted on warrants: Paul Seguin, 30, of Montreal, Jeff Carmell Charles, 32, of Calgary, and Jack-Samuel Mesadieux, 19, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

GREENWAY BYELECTION

We heard message, NDP says

Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman said Calgary Greenway voters wanted to send a message to the NDP government.

In Tuesday's byelection, the NDP squeaked into fourth place, behind the Alberta Liberals, Wildrose, and the winning Progressive Conservatives.

Though the party placed fourth, Hoffman noted the percentage of the vote split between the three losing parties was in the range of 20 per cent.

"Clearly the people wanted to send a message about the economy and jobs, and I've heard them and our Premier and party has heard them," she said.

Duane Bratt, a Mount Royal University political science professor, said the riding was a tough one for the government to win.

"That's how they're going to spin it — they're going to say they've never won this riding, they never lost this riding, and we're still in government," he said. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

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Police aim to improve service

REDEPLOYMENT

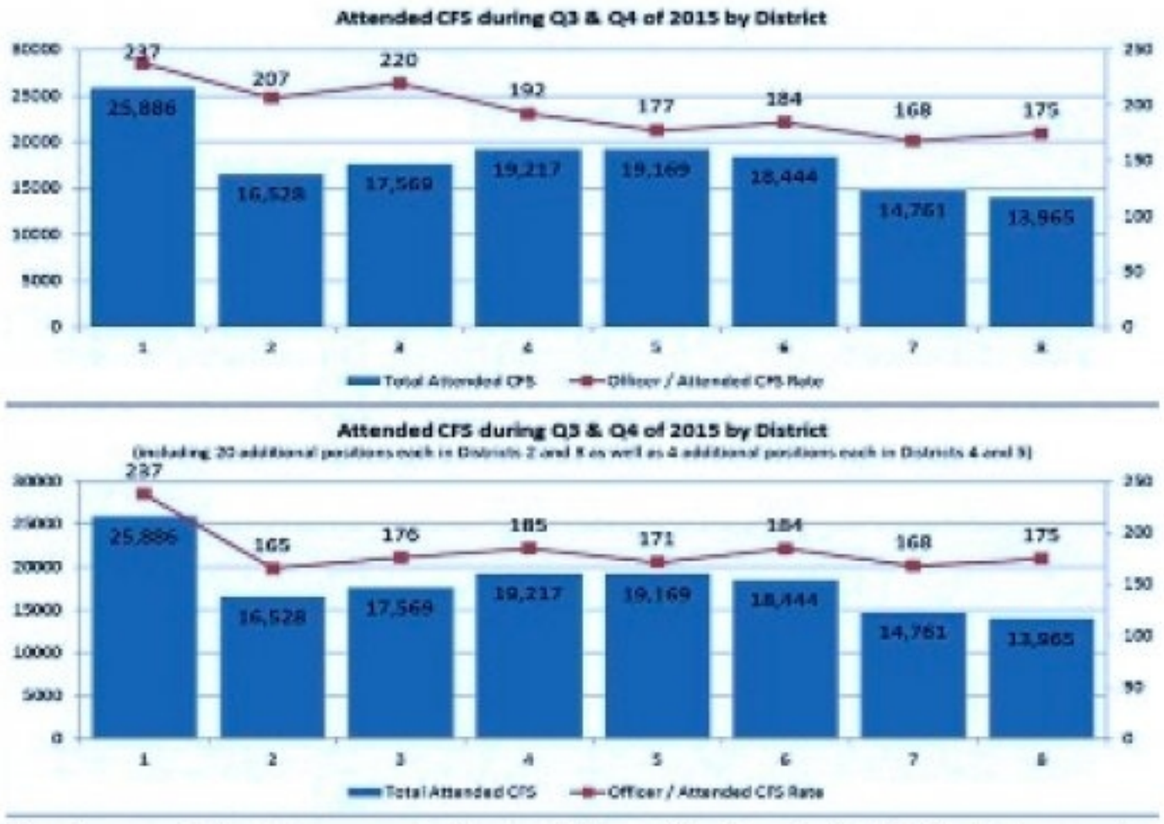
Some districts getting more calls than others: Stats

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

As the Calgary Police prepare for a 48-officer redeployment next month as a part of a new business model, they presented their reasoning behind the redeployment Tuesday to the Calgary Police Commission.

According to Insp. Keith Cain, one of the officers in charge of putting together the report, the purpose of the redeployment is to improve call response times, front-line investigative capacity, increase officer accountability and help support training and development.

"All of our decisions were based upon analysis and we strongly believe that these officers going to these districts will have the biggest impact," he said.



The above graph illustrates current calls attended per-officer in each district. The bottom graph shows the adjusted numbers of calls per-officer after the redeployment. CONTRIBUTED BY CPS

The redeployment will see 20 new positions to both Districts 2 and 3 and four positions to both Districts 4 and 5.

Cain said that with the exception of District 1, statistics indicate officers in Districts 2 and 3 attend more calls per officer compared to other CPS districts.

He said service time per officers in both District 2 and 3 is also much higher.

"This is largely due to the number of constables that are available to meet the call demand," said Cain.

He said while Districts 2 and 3 only have 80 constables each, District 4 and 5 had 100 and 108 respectively, and still experiencing challenges to meet the demand.

After the redeployment, if call loads continue as they are, Cain said the numbers of calls per officer will even out across the board.

> All of our decisions were based upon analysis and we strongly believe that these officers going to these districts will have the biggest impact.
> Insp. Keith Cain

For example, in district 3 on average an officer was attended 220 calls during Q3 and Q4 of 2015, after the adjustments that number will go down to 176 which is within 10 calls compared to any other district except District 1.

Chief Roger Chaffin said reshuffling officers from other areas in the service will help alleviate some of these stresses.

"You look at all these 48 positions and they came from somewhere to make a change," he said.

"Different areas where we believe we could remodel ourselves."

Areas CPS is pulling officers from include 21 positions from the District Operation Teams by collapsing three of the existing eight teams, nine positions previously assigned to the Public Safety and Communications unit, four positions from satellite offices closing in District 6 and 14 positions from the General Investigators Unit.

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2016-0707

Precocious owlets in Internet spotlight

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Students watch feathered friends from safe distance

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

An owlet is perched high up in a tree on the University of Calgary campus. CHRISTINA HODGSON/CONTRIBUTED

Who's the new owl on campus?

Students at the University of Calgary have noticed a couple of fluffy great horned owlets high up in a tree on campus and they're picking up steam on social media. But the nest is in a busy campus spot, and it's probably best to admire photos taken of the pair through a telephoto lens.

Christina Hodgson first saw the nest on Monday after a friend, knowing she's wild for animals, brought her there around lunch time.

"The owlets are at the stage where they're exploring and learning to fly, so they're hopping around in the trees," Hodgson said. "As long as they stay in the tree they're OK, but if they end up on the ground, that's when you want to be calling Alberta Wildlife."

She studied biology for her undergraduate degree — she made sure to take classes in behaviour, anatomy and identification. So, although she would never approach the little furballs, keeping a keen eye on them was a great way for her to keep connected to the field.

"With animals, especially young animals, we really want to leave them alone to grow up with as little disturbance as possible," said Hodgson. "If you're quiet and don't disturb them by getting close, you can see some really cool stuff."

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NO WALK IN THE PARK

Doing double duty by picking up left behind doggie doo

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Professional dog walker Sarah McAllister tries to do her part to pick up left-over poop from Calgary parks. HELEN PIKE/ METRO

Nose Hill Park is just one of Sarah McAllister's offices, the founder of goDog has been walking dogs for over 10 years.

But some Calgary dog owners are making a mess, and she's hoping if you see it, don't complain, grab a bag and clean it up.

With five dogs strapped around her waist and two handfuls of green baggies full-up with the stinky stuff, McAllister said in the warmer seasons she and her other employees don't step over left behind poop, and instead stoop to pick it up.

Two-and-a-half rolls of doggie bags later her walk is done.

"We find that people like to complain about it instead of doing anything," McAllister said. "Everyone likes to say that the parks are so messy but nobody ever cleans it up."

McAllister said the poop is usually in plain sight, right on the paths.

The City of Calgary said they've had an influx of crappy complaints this year to date compared to 2015. That's 76 this year so far compared to the 50 last year-to-date.

"With saying that, in 2014 year-to-date we had 73," said Dustin Rogers, a spokesperson for Calgary Community Standards. "We tend to get an increase in complaints just when the warm weather arrives and the snow starts melting, people pay attention to it more."

McAllister pointed out with the amount of poop her and her crew have picked up, at $250 per infraction, that's a lot of dough — in one instance she calculated over $15,000 in fines for the feces she's picked up.

> **"The parks are so messy but nobody ever cleans it up.**
> Dog walker Sarah McAllister

Rogers said without stats handy it's hard to say how many fines are handed out, but anecdotally he added bylaw doesn't tend to fine — instead opting for an educational approach when pooch's owner doesn't pick up.

"We have the city's Pick up Pooch's Poo Yourself, the PUPPY program, which focuses on keeping our city pet-waste free and promotes responsible pet ownership," Rogers said.

He added the events have environmental leaders and experts there to explain the dangers of not picking up pet waste. Rogers said dog waste can carry e-coli or round-worm larvae which can lead to brain eye and other damage if ingested by pooch.

"Cleaning up keeps the vet bill down, it keeps everyone healthy, and the park's nice," McAllister said. "You don't want to go to a park that's a pile of poop."

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EL_WEST

Minister's visit takes faculty by surprise

Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt. METRO FILE

EDUCATION

Schmidt seems to be fulfilling vow to meet more people

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Unprecedented. That's what the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) is calling last week's ministerial visit to MRU campus to meet with members and hear concerns.

Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt seems to be coming through on promises to meet with more folks in advanced education. Something the sector has been yearning for after years of being passed from one legislative member to the next and being lumped together with other ministries.

"We've never had any success with the former PC government reaching out to ministers or getting them to talk to us," said president of the MRFA Marc Schroeder.

He recalled former Minister Thomas Lukaszuk who outright wouldn't speak with faculty associations.

Two weeks ago, the MRFA executive board met with the minister for a good chunk of the morning. The minister even attended the association's general March meeting where he spent most of his time listening instead of "talking at" members.

"He addressed the membership and talked a little bit about the governments plans and priorities with respect to PSE," Schroeder said.

"He left most of the time for questions and answers from our members."

Schroeder noted the ministry has been very open to consulting and making themselves available for meetings. It's been an open line of communication and something he said is a "refreshing change."

When Schmidt was sworn in he told Metro his absence on Twitter would mean a more personable approach with students, and as it appears, boards and faculty.

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Syrian refugee Rama Yunus joined her family at a Calgary primary care clinic Wednesday. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Family is thankful for clinic's support

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Rim Yunus hopes to become a doctor when she grows up.

Yunus, whose family arrived to Calgary from Syria in early February, said her family is grateful for the help they've received from Calgary's Mosaic Primary Care Network (PCN). Health Minister Sarah Hoffman was also in attendance to welcome the new family.

Rim said she has already checked out books from the Calgary Public Library to learn a few things, via a translator.

"She picked some books to teach her something about health," said the translator.

Rim's dad, Mohammad, said Calgary has been both warm and beautiful.

"We love the people here," he said through a translator. "We are surrounded by love all the time.

The Mosaic PCN has been working at overcapacity to manage the overwhelming influx of refugees, re-allocating resources to ensure refugee are well cared for.

> **We are surrounded by love.**
> Rim's dad, Mohammad

Mosaic PCN's Jayson Shenher said he's confident the provincial and federal governments will fund extra costs that may incur.

Hoffman said the government is looking at where to best allocate funds to primary care networks.

"We don't want to see people going to the emergency department if they can be well supported in a clinic," she said. "We need to look at how we best address equity and get the rights funds where they need to be."

Despite the clinic's busyness, Mohammed said he's so thankful for the support from doctors.

"He appreciates the team here," said the translator. "He wishes all the best for Canada and the country will stay great as it is."

Until Syrians new to Alberta receive their provincial health card, they are covered by the Canadian government's Interim Federal Health Program for up to one year. AHS has five resettlement centres in Alberta.

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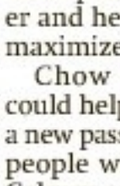
Pros highlight promising startups

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AccelerateAB selects 15 companies to get coaching



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's masters of photography, athletics and gelato are passing on their skills to ambitious Calgarians ready to spend years mastering a craft to make an impact on the world.

Or more likely, it's just a fun way to kill an afternoon.

Hobblit, a new Calgary startup, connects people who are passionate about what they do with a platform to host workshops. The platform has proven promising enough to be selected as one of 15 Alberta startups selected to go to AccelerateAB and learn from the province's most successful entrepreneurs.

Founder Sam Chow said a number of local businesses and individuals have jumped on board — his favourite being a photographer who works with Parks Canada.

"Right now, he's taking people to Troll Falls to show them how to do landscape photography," he said. "So, you bring your own camera, but he's a professional photographer and he'll teach you how to maximize your photography."

Chow said the program could help people launch into a new passion, but it's more for people who want to explore Calgary and spend an hour or two on a fun new hobby.

He's also hoping travellers to Calgary will join in on the workshops, as a way to have a local experience during their trip.

"The ethos is we want local people to come out with their skill sets and run workshops," he said. "We're beginning to see people using companies like Air BnB, Travelocity and Expedia looking for these experiences."

Other Calgarians that have jumped on board to host workshops include an Olympic athlete who does skeleton racing, Fiasco Gelato with a gelato making workshop and Monogram with latte art classes.

Although workshops are running and Calgarians can sign up to teach or attend, the startup doesn't officially launch until later this Spring.

For more information visit hobblit.com.

Tech entrepreneurship

Not to be outdone by gelatos and photography, Calgary startup FREDSense has also been selected to attend AccelerateAB.

FREDSense is a portable sensor that detects different elements in the water.

> **The ethos is we want local people to come out with their skill sets and run workshops.** Sam Chow

Top: The FREDSense team has created a portable sensor that detects what's in your water. COURTESY EMILY HICKS
Right: Sam Chow helped create Hobblit to let people run workshops on their passions. AARON CHATHA/METRO

The sensor can detect heavy metals like copper, zinc and arsenic in the water. CEO Emily Hicks said the technology has the potential to affect a billion people worldwide.

"We're working towards getting the first field model out there to actually get some data from the field," she said. "It's really exciting, and it will be a paid pilot, so it will sort of be our first source of revenue."

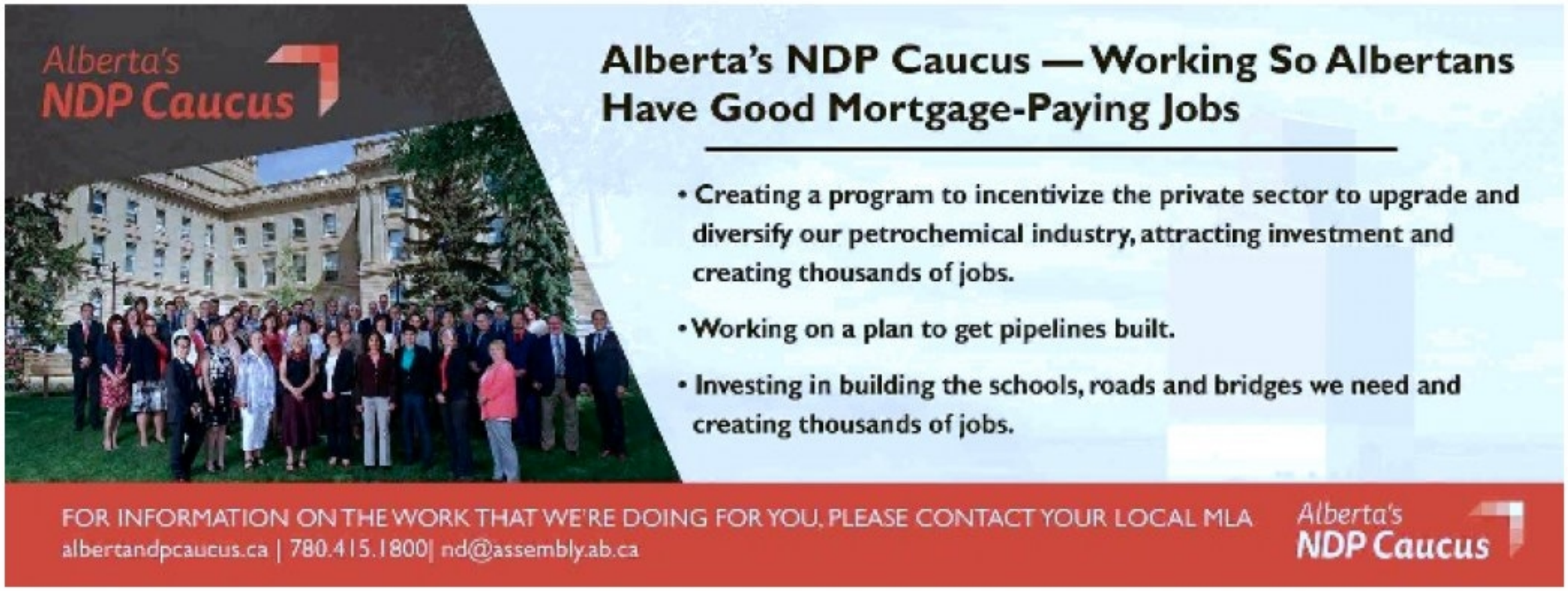
For more information, visit fredsense.com.

BEST TIME

AccelerateAB selected 15 Alberta companies to take part in its roundtable sessions at the end of April.

"There is no better time to be an entrepreneur," said Cynthia van Sundert, AccelerateAB organizer. "With tens of thousands of new businesses registered in the past 12 months in Alberta, these top 15 startups are only a snapshot of the innovation happening in our province."

The sessions will have the startups pitch their concepts to Alberta's successful entrepreneurs, to receive feedback and mentorship.



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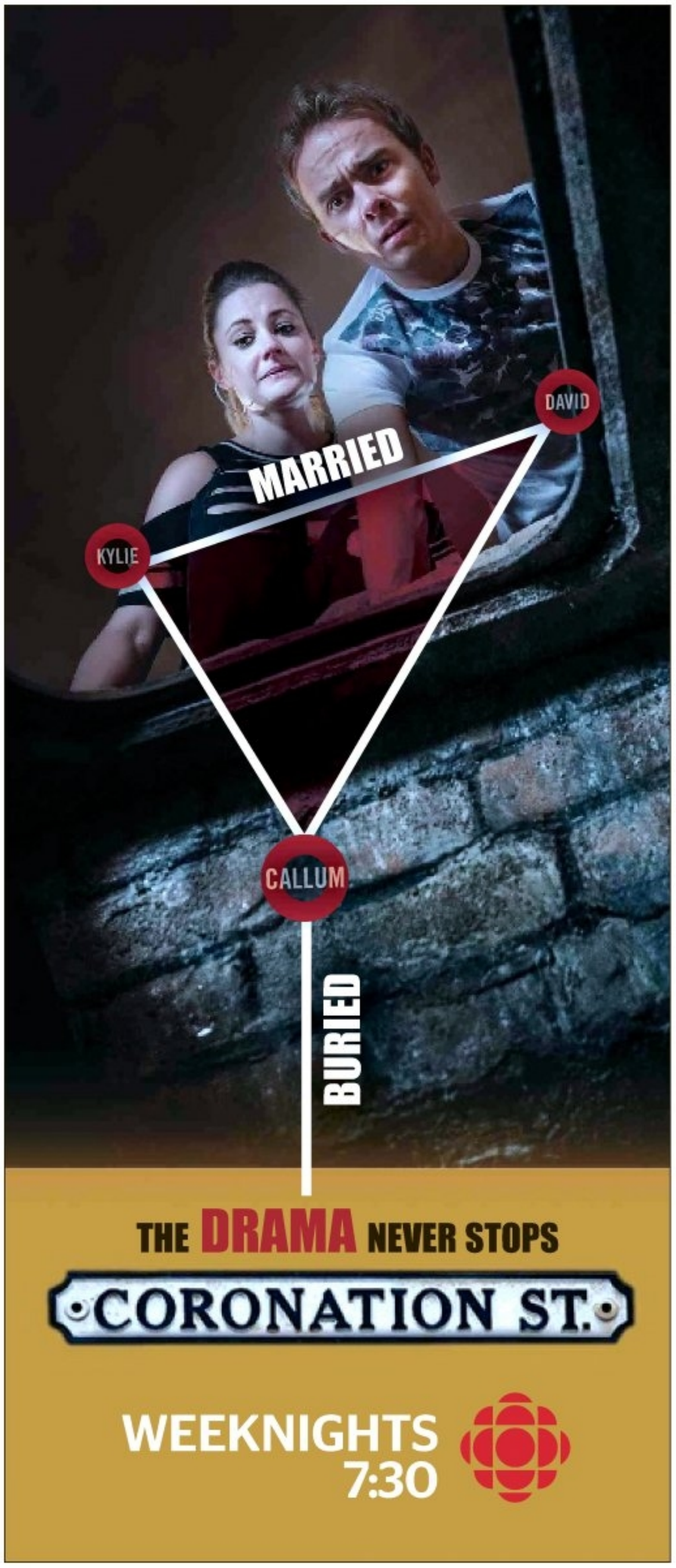

Calgary police are finding new ways to deliver more services to city youth while weighing budgetary issues, said CPS Superintendent Tammy Pozzobon.

COURTESY CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

Youth programs to tighten belts

CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

No increased funding despite rising demand

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police Chief Roger Chaffin is asking his personnel to be creative with their resources during a tough economic time in a way that meets both existing and growing demands.

At a recent Calgary Police Commission (CPC) meeting, Superintendent Tammy Pozzobon made a presentation to update on the status of current CPS Community Youth and Service Section (CYSS) programs, during which she and Chaffin discussed ways to continue to improve the growing program, without increasing funding.

"The big challenge now is not to ask for more but to look for a different way to sustain that business to get more people involved and still create strong value," said Chaffin. "I'm not saying there's a simple solution; I just think we have to be very mindful of public bodies whose only solution in situations like this is to ask for more."

CPS currently has approximately 50 CYSS programs. As and example of the success of the programs, Pozzobon focused on the Multi Agency School Support Teams (MASST) program.

50

Roughly the number of programs administered by CPS's Community Youth and Service Section.

"Since the inception of the MASST program in 2010, we've had about 760 people referred to the program," said Pozzobon. "When we started the program we started with two teams and now we're up to 12 teams, so the program has grown significantly and we still have a waiting list of around 20 kids at all times."

Pozzobon credits the program's ever growing demand and popularity to being available citywide and teachers knowing the benefits of the program for youth.

"I think the school boards have embraced it and the teachers know what it's all about and that is how the referrals are currently handled is through the schools," she said."

The CYSS programs currently have a $12.4 million budget, or 3.5 per cent of the CPS budget, with an additional $1.3 million from outside funders including government. Pozzobon said CYSS would certainly benefit from more funding, but knows it's not a reality given economics.

"I don't think we're going to see any type of growth right now, it'd be unrealistic given the economic hardships," she said. "What the chief has challenged us to do is to get most impact with what we have and to think of things a little bit differently in how we're using the resources."

IN BRIEF

New school to bear name of Canadian diplomat

The Calgary Board of Education has named their new school after a prominent Canadian diplomat.

The new elementary school in Evanston, which will serve kids from Kindergarten to Grade 3, will be named the Kenneth D. Taylor School.

Ken Taylor was instrumental in the return of six American diplomats during the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979.

METRO

LLOYDMINSTER

Arrest made over two murdered women

RCMP say a man has been arrested on counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two women that go back several years.

Jeannette Chief was last seen in Lloydminster on the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary on June 2, 2007, after having left the Onion Lake reserve the day before.

Officers found the body of Chief, who was 48, four days later in a rural area.

Violet Heathen, who was 49, was also last seen in Lloydminster on May 15, 2009.

Her remains were found near Kitscoty, Alta., about six months later.

The RCMP's historical homicide units in Alberta and Saskatchewan confirm a 59-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday.

Mounties say they utilized members from several specialized units in both provinces during the lengthy murder investigations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DANGEROUS DRIVING

Warrants issued in fatal SW hit and run

Derek Brian Grouette. COURTESY CALGARY POLICE

Canada-wide warrants have been issued for a man in relation to a fatal hit-and-run collision that took place in Calgary last month.

Police responded to a call of a two-vehicle collision Feb. 18, around 6:30 a.m. in the northbound lanes of 37 Street SW, just south of the 130 Avenue intersection.

According to police, witnesses reported that a pickup truck was traveling south in the northbound lanes of 37 Street leading up to the collision. Following the crash, the three occupants of the truck fled the scene. It's believed the truck was stolen from Chestermere.

The driver of the other vehicle, Keith Arthur Morley, 52, was declared dead at the scene.

The CPS Traffic Section previously charged two individuals in relation to this incident. After further investigation, Canada-wide warrants have been issued for Derek Brian Grouette, 33, who faces a total of 13 charges including dangerous driving causing death.

Anyone with information about Grouette's whereabouts is asked to contact police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

In a statement from Carol Stephens Morley, Keith Morley's sister, she pleads for Grouette to turn himself in to police:

"I am asking the man who fled from the collision to turn himself in. ... My family is searching for a right somewhere in this wrong."

METRO

Conservative MP Jim Hillyer. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS/

Hillyer dies suddenly

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Reports suggest Alberta MP, age 41, died in Ottawa office

MPs of all political stripes consoled and comforted one another on Parliament Hill on Wednesday after learning of the sudden death of Alberta Conservative MP Jim Hillyer.

News of the tragedy spread as Hillyer's fellow Tories gathered for their weekly caucus meeting.

Many expressed shock, noting they had seen him out Tuesday night after the federal budget. As they left the Hill, several were met with hugs and handshakes from Liberal MPs.

The House of Commons, where a heated post-budget question period had been anticipated, was instead expected to adjourn early, although there was talk of party leaders paying tribute.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose said she was deeply saddened.

"Jim was a valued and hard-working member of the Conservative team, and a passionate advocate for those he represented," she said in a statement.

Former prime minister Stephen Harper offered his condolences on Twitter.

"Laureen and I were shocked and saddened to learn of Jim Hillyer's passing," he wrote.

Hillyer was a cancer survivor and had a bone marrow transplant in 2003. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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David Stephan and his wife Collet Stephan arrive at court on March 10, in Lethbridge.
DAVID ROSSITER/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Son had flu, pair thought: Lawyer

TRIAL

Expert says meningitis symptoms may look like a cold

The lawyer for the parents charged in the death of their two-year-old son says they thought he had a cold or the flu.

The toddler's parents, David and Collet Stephan, formerly of Glenwood, Alta., are charged with failing to provide the necessities of life for 18-month-old Ezekiel.

Defence lawyer Shawn Buckley told the jury on Wednesday that evidence will show the boy appeared to get better at times, even right up until the night he stopped breathing and had to be rushed to hospital in March 2012.

The trial has heard the boy had been sick for about 2 1/2 weeks and his parents gave him natural remedies and home-made smoothies containing hot pepper, ginger root, horseradish and onion.

After being taken to Cardston hospital, Ezekiel was rushed to a Calgary hospital, where he died a week later from bacterial meningitis and a lung infection.

The trial has been adjourned until April 11, and is expected to continue for a least a week, and possibly longer.

Earlier Wednesday Dr. Jonathan James Gamble, a pediatrics specialist at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, told court a runny nose, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and occasional back stiffness could all be indications of a cold or flu.

Those were the symptoms Ezekiel had in the two weeks leading up to his death.

Gamble also testified that symptoms such as difficulty swallowing and being so stiff a child could not sit in a car seat, should have led to medical intervention.

The jury has already heard that a friend who was a nurse told the Stephans that their boy might have viral meningitis and advised them to take him to a doctor.

The Stephans researched treatments online and the next day picked up an echinacea mixture from a naturopath in Lethbridge.

But Ezekiel was too stiff to sit in his car seat and had to lie on a mattress in the Stephan vehicle as they drove to Lethbridge. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Warning signs

Dr. Jonathan James Gamble, a pediatrics specialist at the Alberta Children's Hospital, told the court meningitis symptoms like runny nose, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and occasional back stiffness could all be indications of a cold or flu. But he added that symptoms like difficulty swallowing or sitting in a car seat should have led to medical intervention.

The proposed Springbank Dam would divert Bow flood waters away from Calgary into a massive reservoir. SCREENSHOT / YOUTUBE

Springbank disputes assessment

ENVIRONMENT

Community clears the air on government impact survey

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Springbank landowners want to set the record straight on a government announcement made Wednesday.

In a release, the province announced an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposed dam and dry reservoir is now underway.

If constructed, the Springbank Reservoir would allow the province to divert flood waters from the Bow river into a holding reservoir, and prevent flooding in Calgary.

However, landowners in the area have released their own statement on the project, saying they have only allowed the province access to their land for the purposes of the assessment.

"To be clear, there have been no negotiations on land transfer between Springbank residents and the Government of Alberta. None," read the statement.

The landowners say they are allowing the EIA to go ahead because it will strengthen their arguments against the project.

"We are confident that the assessments will prove that the land in question is a hotspot for wildlife, and has most of the same environmental and social issues that were deemed to make McLean Creek unfavorable," landowner Lee Drewry told Metro.

"Not to mention that the vast and ever-expanding footprint of the project (6800 acres) will make land acquisition so expensive that no cost/benefit analysis would withstand public scrutiny," Drewry said.

Landowners are also taking issue with the government's assertion that they "will continue" to consult stakeholders on the project.

They say it's difficult to continue something that hasn't begun.

The landowners say they are not giving up their fight against the project.

"Transferring risk from one community to another is not flood mitigation," said Drewry.

"We are confident that with enough time, and scrutiny, Albertans, especially rural Albertans, will back our fight to stop this white elephant in its tracks."

> **Transferring risk ... is not flood mitigation.**
> **Lee Drewry, landowner**

CITY ISSUES

Collective seeks solutions for housing

Some issues are just far too big for any one group to tackle.

That's the idea behind Calgary's Community Housing Affordability Collective, according to Kim O'Brien, executive director of Horizon housing society.

Her group is just one of dozens involved in the collective, and they're coming together to seek solutions for affordable housing.

The group recently had their terms of reference for a steering committee approved by council committee.

O'Brien pointed to a number of studies and strategies that were floating around — such as the poverty reduction strategy and the updated plan to end homelessness that lacked any true champions.

"There was no firm plan to make sure these things could be implemented, but these have the ability to make transformational change to how housing is provided in our community," O'Brien said.

Over the next few years, she said the collective will look at which of these projects it may be able to advance.

O'Brien said there are spin-offs when the various groups — everyone from rental companies, to homebuilders, to homeless shelters — come together and collaborate on problems.

Coun. Druh Farrell said she was initially critical of the group's plan for moving forward, but after seeing a presentation on March 15, Farrell's now officially on board.

"I feel much more confident that we'll start seeing results," Farrell told Metro.

The city will be providing a staff member to assist the group, and will be at the table for future meetings.

BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

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Calgary figures in literature after all

READING

Writer-sleuth reveals the city's history in print

Jennifer Friesen

When Shaun Hunter was growing up in Calgary, she lost herself in books about far-away places. From Toronto to New York to London, she travelled by way of fiction.

But as she got older, she noticed something was missing.

"I never saw my own city imagined on the page of a novel," she said. "And then, as an adult, I recognized that it was missing — and it was missing enough for me that it affected my relationship with the city."

That all changed for the writer when she started searching for Calgary's literary history in her latest project, Writing the City, which can be found at shaunhunter.ca.

Since last year, Hunter has been poring over books in her own collection and in the library's local history room. So far, she's collected more than 100 different pieces of literature referencing Calgary's 140-year history, and each Friday she posts her latest find online.

"As a young writer living here, I was convinced that I had to leave town to lead a literary life," she said. "A lot of things have changed since then, but if I had read Calgary stories back then, I might have seen that that was not the case a lot earlier."

She's uncovered the memoirs of Nellie McClung's years in Calgary, followed a journey from the Garrison Pub to Nigeria in Will Ferguson's novel "419," and found a story of murder at 1 Street West in 1889.

"It's really been an amazing treasure hunt," she said.

"I hope (this project) lets people see Calgary in a multi-dimensional way. To be frank, this city isn't known as a literary landscape to the people beyond it, so I hope people would take a second look and see that this is a literary landscape and people have been writing about it for a long time."

Hunter plans to keep Writing the City running until the summer, but said she's already collected more than she could include. Once it's complete, she hopes to turn the collected research into a book.

Next Tuesday, she's hosting a collection of Calgary writers at Loft 112 for Writing the East Village: A Cabaret of Literary Readings, to explore the history of the East Village.

"Calgary is more than its stereotypes," she said. "There was a time where we would always see outsiders putting us in a box ... but this reading project has really split that whole thing open for me, and I found that through reading Calgary's stories, I feel more connected to it."

SHAUN HUNTER RECOMMENDS:

Katherine Govier's "Between Men" (1987)
Aritha van Herk's "Restlessness" (1998)
Betty Jane Hegerat's "Running Toward Home" (2006)
Will Ferguson's "419" (2012)
Don Gillmor's "Long Change" (2015)

Shaun Hunter has spent a year collecting references to Calgary in literature for her blog Writing the City. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

A new group wants all Calgarians to support Chinatown as a destination, a tourist attraction and a cultural landmark.
JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

Cultural revival amid controversy

CHINATOWN

New group has concerns with consultation for highrise

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Patrick Teoh said he didn't know much about his cultural heritage until he realized it was at risk of being lost.

The 30-year-old Calgary accountant has Asian heritage, but only recently took an interest in the city's Chinatown.

He's now helping take the lead on a group called I Love YYC Chinatown, which is calling for better consultation on a new 30-storey development in the area.

"We're definitely not anti-development — we'd like to see Chinatown revive, like in the way it's been done in Chicago," he said.

Calgary's Chinatown has a history stretching back over 100 years. It's technically a residential community, which is why there's been opposition to the proposed development.

"This was involving all the seniors — but it has awakened among the younger crowd," said Teoh.

The new group is not anti-development, according to Grace Su of the Chinatown Community Stakeholders' Association, but they have concerns with the consultation on the proposed 30-storey structure.

"(The developers) are asking to disconnect from current and future Area Redevelopment Plan," said Su.

The ARP is a blueprint for the community, with guidelines such as building height. City council recently agreed to redo Chinatown's aging ARP.

Metro reached out to the developers, El Condor Lands Inc., but did not receive a response.

City council will revisit the development proposal on April 11. Teoh said although his group is tackling this issue, they don't want to get too caught up in politics.

"We're a non-political group — although April 11 is important for us — we want to keep the group going — we want to show Calgarians the history and significance of Chinatown."

> **This was involving all the seniors — but it has awakened among the younger crowd.** Patrick Teoh

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From Syria, with love, to your palate

CUISINE

Refugee chef brings taste of her homeland to Calgary

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Rita Khanchat said the most important ingredient in any recipe is love.

Khanchat, a broadcast engineer by trade, came to Calgary as a refugee from Syria three months ago. She said she knew she needed to find something temporary to do for work while she upgraded her English and education here in Canada.

"I know the wait is long, maybe years," she said. "We have priorities for our life and the first one is to find something so we can survive, and we think this project will be good and enough for us."

The project Khanchat speaks of is a small catering company called Syrian Cuisine Made With Love. Currently, she is running her business and doing all of the cooking from her basement apartment, but she has big dreams for it.

"Most of the Syrian refugee women come here with no skills and no education — because they spent the last five years living in a tent in a refugee camp," she said. "I think if we grow we can bring them to help us and help them depend on themselves."

Najway Habod, a friend and volunteer for the Syrian Refugee Support Group, said she thinks building the company is a great idea.

"We want to give encouragement for other ladies to gain independence," she said. "Many of them relied on men back home, but have lost their husbands in the war and are here alone, so if we are able to grow the business it would help them because they wouldn't need education to cook."

Khanchat said food is a universal language that builds community and unites people, no matter where they are from. She said she's brought traditional Syrian dishes to the SRSG warehouse and fed volunteers, and their reactions have been amazing.

> **One Canadian told me it is different from anything they ever tasted before.**
> Rita Khanchat

"Syrian people already know this food so I tried to invite Canadians and other nationalities to try," she said. "One Canadian told me it is different from anything they ever tasted before. 'It's delicious,' they said."

Although Syrian Cuisine Made With Love is already fielding many orders, they want your business, too. To learn more or to make an order, call Rita at: 587-719-8006 or search Facebook for Syrian Cuisine Made With Love.

Rita Khanchat displays the chicken that will top off her traditional Syrian kabseh dish.
KENNETH APPLEBEE /FOR METRO

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Favourites back at Opera

ARTS

Alberta-set Filumena and Turandot of China return

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

After 14 years, Alberta-produced Filumena returns to the Calgary Opera, as part of its 2016-17 season.

"It was a huge success 14 years ago," said W.R. "Bob" McPhee, general director and CEO.

"I wanted to do something of a historical story of Canada, and in all our audience surveys, it comes up over and over again. So, I thought with Canada's 150th anniversary, it was logical to remount this work."

Filumena follows the story of an Italian immigrant to Alberta who pursues a forbidden affair.

It was one of the first local productions commissioned by Calgary Opera, which led to a tradition of hosting new works.

McPhee said if you've never seen an opera before, you don't have to be a scholar to enjoy it. Before a given show, Calgary Opera hosts a chat at which they talk about the history of a show and point out elements that the audience should look for.

"Everything's translated in the subtitles, so you follow the story like anyone else," said McPhee. "Some operas are just easy, like Die Fledermaus. It's a fun, sort of a bedroom-farce comedy of the era. A ball is held and people are worried about their lovers cheating on them, so they wear masks to this ball. People are mistaken for other people."

Die Fledermaus kicks off the next Calgary Opera season, beginning in November. The season will end with Turandot, an opera about a prince who must solve a series of riddles to marry a princess.

In August, Calgary Opera will also bring a Chautauqua Tent to East Village to feature numerous artists daily in an event called Opera in the Village.

Last performed in 2005, Turandot returns for the new season. COURTESY TRUDIE LEE/CALGARY OPERA

HOLIDAYS

What's hop this Easter weekend

Getting Around

Calgary Transit will provide Sunday hours for Good Friday and regular weekend services for Saturday and Sunday.

There will be free on-street parking and holiday rates for Calgary Parking Authority parkades and select surface lots on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Things to do

Take the kids to the swimming pool for free at Acadia, Inglewood, Killarney or Sir Winston Churchill. Swimming times are from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday only.

The front nine holes and driving ranges will open at McCall Lake and Shaganappi Point Golf Courses on Saturday.

Around the house

There will be no changes to garbage and recycling pickup.

In the community

Show off your chicken dance moves during the Spring Sparktacular, cuddle with furry bunnies and fill your baskets at Butterfield Acres or hop down to the Calgary Zoo for cookie decorating and other Easter-themed crafts for kids of all ages.

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Murder, madness hit Vertigo

SCENE YYC

Macbeth cuts and kills his way across the theatre's stage

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Fair is foul and foul is the state of Haysam Kadri's Macbeth after a rehearsal of Shakespeare's famed Scottish play.

"He falls off the cliff pretty quickly in terms of the psychological neurosis and imbalance as a person," said Kadri, who will play the title character at the Vertigo Theatre beginning April 30. "There's a lot of hallucination and paranoia. Physically and mentally, it's exhausting living inside that character. I just try to keep hydrated and healthy to be able to do it."

"I don't take any of it home with me, to preserve my own sanity."

Haysam Kadri plays the title character in Macbeth — a process he says can be physically exhausting, but thankfully easy to leave on stage and not take home. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Kadri said the play, a joint venture between Vertigo Theatre and The Shakespeare Company, has been adapted to appeal the classic thespians and Vertigo's usual crowd.

"It's a psychological thriller, and we felt, that's right up Vertigo's alley," Kadri laughed. "It's his most accessible play. The story of ambition and the downfall of this man is a really intriguing one."

The famous play follows a Scottish general named Macbeth, who receives a prophecy from a trio of witches saying he will one day be king. Macbeth proceeds to murder King Duncan and take his place, beginning a descent into paranoia and madness.

> **What makes it accessible is that it's a really simple story,**
> Haysam Kadri, on Macbeth

"What makes it really accessible is that it's a really simple story," he explained. "I love the way we're telling it because there's a lot of supernatural elements and there's a lot of twists that Craig and Anna have conceived."

What had Kadri really excited about this adaptation of Macbeth is the surreal witches, which kick start the plot.

"The witches, we have a different take on them," he said. "They're three different beings, we call them the strangers. They're a mysterious trio, and I'll just leave it at that. It's quite creepy and chilling the stuff we've done in rehearsal."

For more information, visit vertigotheatre.com.

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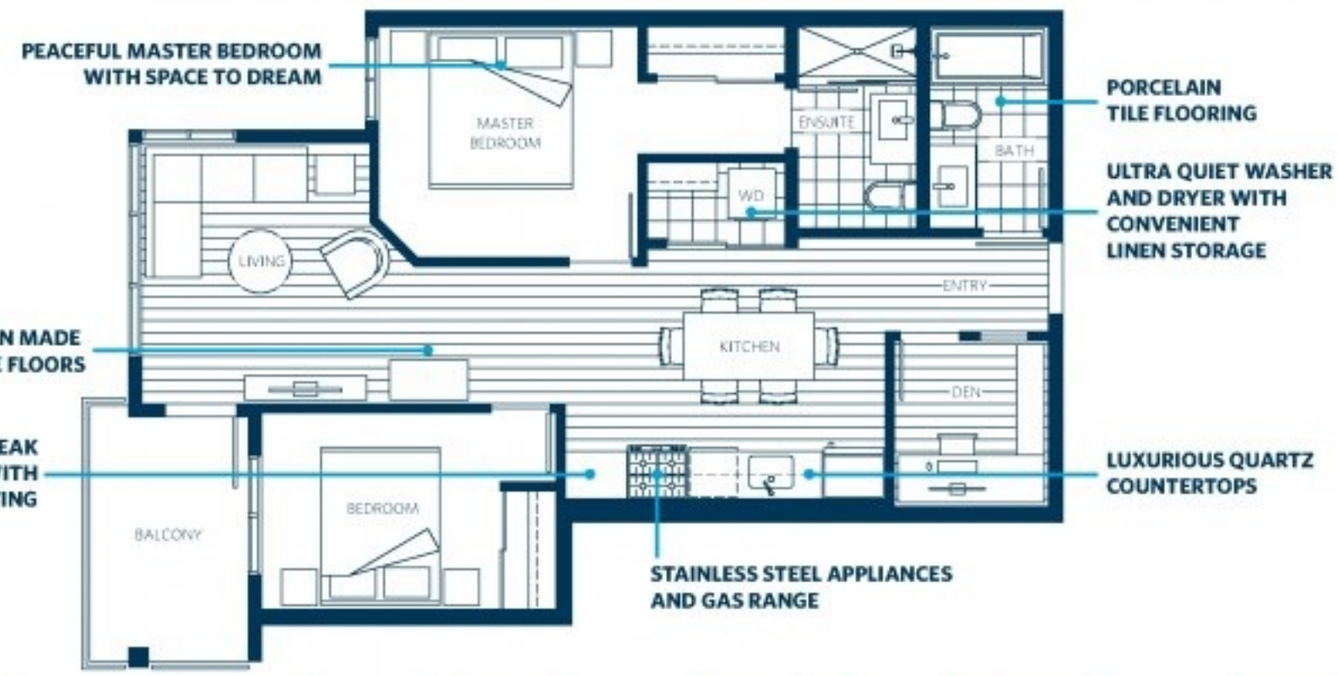

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Kayhan Kalhor plays the bowed kamanche, an instrument which is similar to a violin. COURTESY TODD ROSENBERG

The king of kamanche

SCENE YYC

Iranian master Kalhor preps for concert

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Iranian musician and three-time Grammy nominee Kayhan Kalhor has been playing the bowed kamanche since he was 5. He performs at Jack Singer Concert Hall on April 6.

You've been playing the same instrument since you were five – why does the kamanche speak to you?
I was drawn to the sound of the kamanche very, very early. As a musician, it's all about sound. Then other things come along. You create a bond with a sound that satisfies your soul. I thought the kamanche was doing that for me. And it's stayed that way all these years.

In your career you've worked on films and with artists like Yo-Yo Ma. How has your sound evolved?
As you grow up and grow older with your instruments, you discover more about the sound. Maybe you're fascinated with technique when you're a teenager, but when you're older you get deeper into the music. When you live with music as long as I have – that's 45 years now – that sound and deepness becomes more important than anything else.

At this stage of your career, you're drawing audiences and collaborators in western countries like Canada and the U.S. What is it about Persian music that draws in people?
It's not just about Persian music, but the world is different now. The world is much smaller. Because of the difference in our relationships, because of technology, cell phones, YouTube, things bring us closer together and give us the possibility to know each other as musicians. Eastern musician or western musician, you find interest in other cultures, creating new sounds. The Beatles used the Indian sitar in one of their tracks. Everyone is in search of new sounds.

You've been involved in creating an entirely new instrument called the Shah Kaman. What was that experience like?
I didn't create the instrument single-handedly. The prototype resembled an eastern instrument like the kamanche. It was a huge fretted instrument with a big sound box. We made it a five-stringed instrument, with a lower string. This became an instrument that was very interesting, because it had this lower, warmer sound that I really loved.

It took me to an older version, in my mind, of sound and Persian music. I like to play with it in concerts or record an album. I called it Shah Kaman, meaning king of Kaman, or kamanche.

WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY — Easter at the Market
At the Calgary Farmers' Market, Easter festivities are taking place.
Bring home a yummy but good-looking surprise by decorating Easter cookies, or getting photographs with the Easter Bunny.
Admission is free, and the market is up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SATURDAY — Taste of Jamaica
Learn about Jamaican culture by sampling food, dance and music. Dishes include dumplings, jerk chicken, ackee and saltfish. Local artists will be performing. The Jamaican Cultural Association has been running the showcase for two decades now.
Adult tickets at $15 and it takes place at the Thorncliffe Community Centre at noon.

SATURDAY — Big band Brunch
For the 21st time, the Prime Time Big Band performs at the Ironwood Stage and Grill. Led by Dave Jones and including Deanne Matley, the group is made up of local jazz musicians.
Tickets are $20 and it takes place at 2 p.m. at the Ironwood Stage and Grill.

SUNDAY — Easter Scavenger Hunt
If you're willing to trek out to the mountains for an epic hunt for easter eggs, the first Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt takes place at Mount Engadine Lodge.
The hunt will take places along the pathways for the mountain.
It takes place at 1 p.m.
AARON CHATHA/METRO

Local links to The World's Finest

With DC's latest comic book blockbuster Batman v. Superman set to hit theatres on Friday, here are some local caped crusading connections, from Superboy all grown up to Calgary Batman.

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

In 1978, Calgary-born actor Aaron Smolinski was Superman in the Richard Donner film.

Although Christopher Reeve donned the blue tights and red cape, Smolinksi played a young Clark Kent in flashback scenes, which involved him lifting a truck above his head.

"One hook and a wire held the truck up while I stood underneath it, so people thought my parents were crazy," said Smolinksi, who was three years old at the time. "I remember my arms were sore from holding it up. I remember telling my dad that."

Smolinksi also had small cameo in Superman II and played a boy by the photo booth in Superman III. And his legacy with Superman didn't end there — Smolinksi also played a communications officer in Man of Steel, where he met the current Superman, Henry Cavill.

"I often tell people, he was probably my least favourite person I've met," he said. "Because, if everyone in the world got together to create the perfect human, they'd make Henry Cavill. He's great looking and he's charming.

He really reminded me a lot of Chris (Reeve)."

Although born and raised in Calgary, Smolinksi now lives in Los Angeles. He attended the University of Calgary when he was offered a role as a stand-in for the series Lonesome Dove.

From there, he left his studies behind and moved to Vancouver, and eventually L.A., where he continues to work as an actor. He's currently in pre-production for an independent film called Astronomy Walkers.

Smolinksi said he's proud of his time with Superman, and is even working on a campaign to see himself appear on the current Supergirl TV show.

Aaron Smolinski, inset, at the age of three, played Clark Kent in the 1978 Superman film. COURTESY AARON SMOLINKSI

He's the hero Calgary deserves, and the one your birthday party needs right now.

Dan McKim spends his evening donning the cape and cowl to become Calgary Batman.

"Kids all react differently. I went to visit a seven-year-old who froze up. So we had to physically move him into pictures," said McKim, noting that sometimes kids can be intimidated by having the Batman nearby. "But after I left, his parents told me he was over the moon talking about it. But while I was there, it was like moving furniture."

McKim originally started dressing up as Batman as a way to make ends-meat, and financially support a custody battle for his daughter.

That was two-and-a-half years ago.

Now McKim works full-time, and mostly uses his imposing frame for charity events, fundraisers and to bring smiles to sick children in hospitals.

"The hardest thing is dealing with the fact that they're kids. I have kids," he said. McKim said his wife, who often comes with him, becomes his rock when it comes to visiting children in hospitals who have just come out of major surgeries. "Just to take the emotion away. It's very hard sometimes, it makes you hurt."

McKim said donning the costume can take anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes, and becomes incredibly hot. But it's worth it just to see kids brighten up and nervously approach the Batman. He said superheroes have the power to instil hope in children, and brings adults back to their childhood.

"You come into a room, and you can't get past the door," he said, adding that being the Calgary Batman is a constantly rewarding experience.

He regularly posts updates about his heroics on Facebook under Calgary Batman.

Dan McKim said it takes him 30 minutes to get in costume, but loves how it brightens up kids' faces. KENNETH APPLEBY/FOR METRO

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#57337	2015	GMC 1500 Sierra Double Cab 4x4	WAS $57,520	NOW $44,388	SAVINGS $13,132
#55311	2015	Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $63,205	NOW $48, 868	SAVINGS $14,197
#56608	2015	Chev Canyon Ext/C 4x4	WAS $40,955	NOW $35,688	SAVINGS $5,067
#54129	2015	Chev HD Express Cutaway	WAS $54,771	NOW $48,488	SAVINGS $6,283
#55352	2015	Chev 2500 HD Silverado C/C 4x4	WAS $71,835	NOW $55,488	SAVINGS $16,347
#56252	2015	Verano	WAS $26,465	NOW $20,588	SAVINGS $5,877
#52415	2015	Chev Cruze 4D 1LS	WAS $18,370	NOW $11,998	SAVINGS $6,372
#55399	2015	Chev 1500 C/C High Country 4x4	Was $66,935	NOW $53,588	SAVINGS $13,347
#55402	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $59,200	NOW $42,088	SAVINGS $16,412
# 55410	2015	Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was $100,000	SOLD	SAVINGS $17,112
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# 57615	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD SLE C/C 4x4	Was $56,590	NOW $40,888	SAVINGS $15,702
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# 55412	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $58,965	SOLD	SAVINGS $19,077
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# 56425	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4 Duramax	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55426	2015	Chev Silverado HD C/C 4x4	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
# 55428	2015	Chev 2500 Silverado HD C/C 4x4 Lash	Was $82,615	NOW $65,488	SAVINGS $17,127
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# 55455	2015	Chev 1500 Silverado C/C 4x4	Was $63,535	NOW $49,488	SAVINGS $14,047
# 54942	2015	Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 54943	2015	Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 57557	2015	GMC 1500 Sierra Reg/C 4x4	Was $36,910	NOW $29,988	SAVINGS $6,912
# 55631	2015	Chev Canyon SLE Crew Cab	Was $38,210	SOLD	SAVINGS $6,012
#54945	2015	Chev 2500 Savana Cargo Van	Was $39,335	NOW $34,488	SAVINGS $4,867
# 54836	2015	Chev Trax LS	Was $21,490	NOW $16,688	SAVINGS $4,802
# 56398	2015	GMC Terrain SLE2	Was $33,689	NOW $26,988	SAVINGS $6,701
# 52492	2015	Chev Cruze 1LS	Was $18,170	NOW $11,998	SAVINGS $6,172
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SOCIAL MEDIA

A little tantrum with big consequences

A woman who pitched two cups of coffee at a man when he confronted her for parking in a handicapped parking spot outside a Tim Hortons has received a police warning after a video of the incident garnered international attention.

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said Wednesday the videographer, Ryan Favro, had declined to press a criminal complaint but officers still paid a visit to the woman.

"We've cautioned her for assault and parking in a disabled spot, which is really what we can do under the circumstances," Pugash said.

Favro, in the interim, was trying to put the genie back in the Internet bottle.

In a Facebook posting, he explains why he removed his YouTube video — shot Monday — which has been viewed more than a million times and shared by tens of thousands.

"I don't want to grind this woman into the ground," Favro says. "There has to be a way for her to recover."

The video, still widely available and posted by outlets across Canada and as far away as the U.K. and New Zealand, sparked howls of social media outrage, with many condemning her as a "brat," among other things.

Favro, however, said some of the comments directed at the woman went too far.

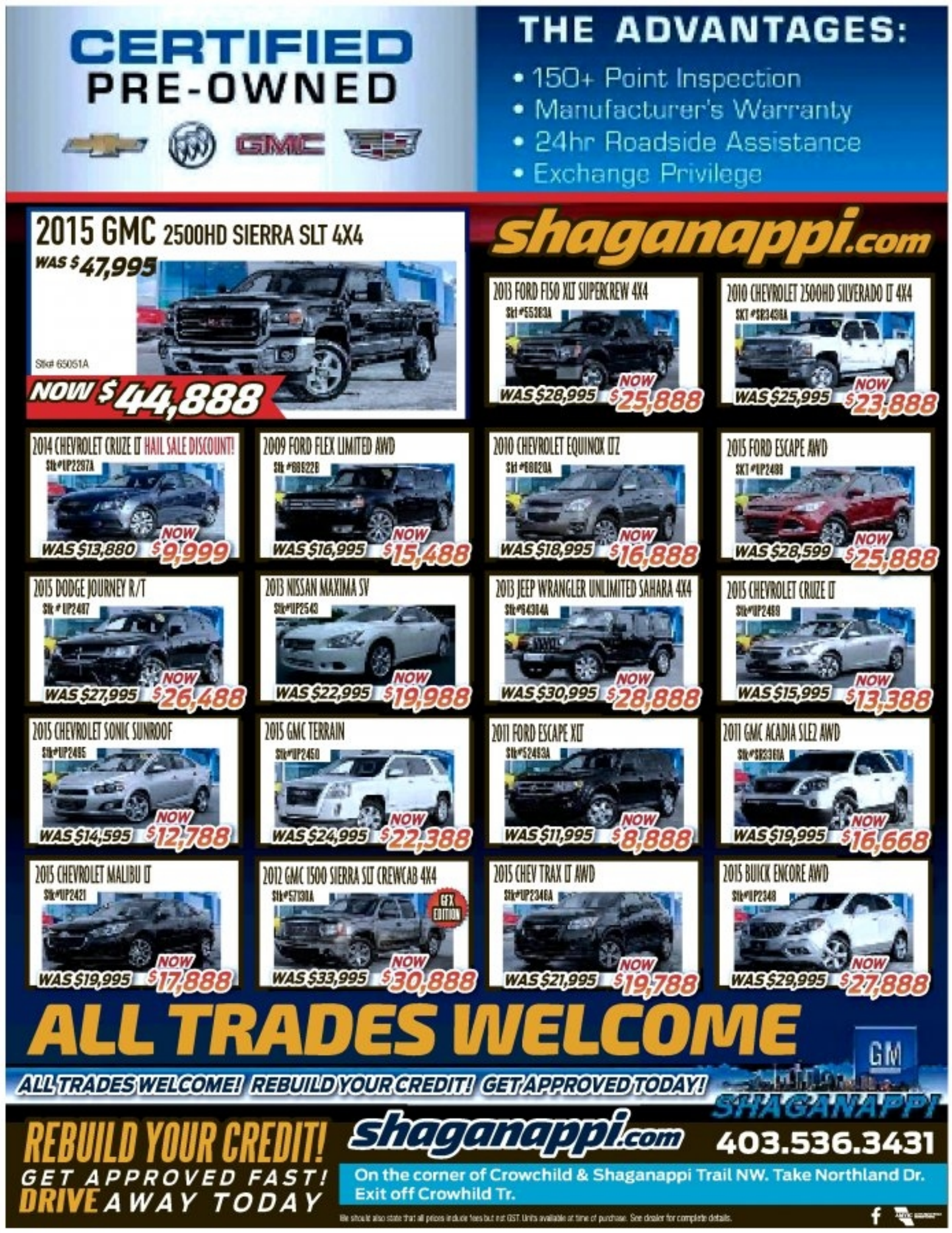
Favro's video begins with his politely asking the woman why she had parked in the reserved spot as she returns to her Jeep with her Timmies coffee and iced coffee.

"Are you handicapped?" he is heard asking.

"No," she says, and walks away.

"Well, what makes you so special that you can park in a handicapped spot?" he asks.

The woman hurls what appears to be the iced coffee — along with profanities — at the videographer. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Veterinarian Dr. Mike Higgins examines Cassidy, an eight-month-old rescue cat with no rear legs. She will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kitty to get prosthetics

VANCOUVER

Rescued cat to be fitted out with blades as back limbs

When a deformed feral kitten was discovered on a rural property in Langley, B.C., Cassidy the cat's rescuer says he was scooting around on his front legs with his bum in the air like a "reverse velociraptor."

The nine-week-old tabby, missing both hind legs, will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants in a groundbreaking procedure.

"Definitely this is cutting-edge technology," said Dr. Mike Higgins, a neurologist with Canada West Veterinary Specialists.

"We're learning a lot from human medicine that is translating into animals."

The black-and-white kitten received Botox injections at the Vancouver animal hospital on Wednesday as preparation for attaching prosthetic blades to his back limbs. The procedure will be the first of its kind in the world on a cat, Higgins said.

Cassidy was rescued by Shelley Roche, who believes the kitten may have lost its legs as a result of its mother chewing to free its body from a knotted umbilical cord at birth.

The cost of his rehabilitation has been $10,000, she said, though the Vancouver vets offered their services pro bono.

Another specialist is already working with the animal to make a 3D-printed model for the prostheses. The surgery will take place at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in two to four months, when Cassidy is close to being fully grown.

The American surgeon has unique experience in remedying cats and dogs with congenital malformations, Higgins said.

The blade device is advanced because its design conforms more naturally to the limbs, allowing more normal movement, he said. Similar models are already in use by people, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shelly Roche with her rescue cat, Cassidy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cindy Blackstock, president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, has spent nearly a decade fighting the federal government over funding of reserve care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not enough for native kids: Critics

THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

'First step' not a valid excuse, says advocate

The federal government is determined to overhaul the First Nations child-welfare system, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says — even as critics focused on the issue say the budget fell well short of what's needed.

It's also necessary to increase capacity so child-welfare services can be properly delivered and controlled by First Nations themselves, Bennett said.

"We think the $635 million (over five years for child and family services) that we are committing to in this budget is significant," Bennett said.

Advocate Cindy Blackstock has a different assessment of the government's level of funding, which includes an initial outlay of $71 million in 2016-17.

As president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Blackstock spent nearly a decade fighting the federal government over funding of reserve care.

On Tuesday, despite a multibillion-dollar federal budget windfall for indigenous people, including education, infrastructure and social housing, Blackstock assailed the government for failing to spend the needed $200 million on indigenous child welfare services this year.

"When we use these conversations about giving credit for first steps, it sometimes distracts away from what is actually happening to the kids," Blackstock said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Gaping hole' in fiscal plan

THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Grits forced to defend lack of schedule for nixing deficit

One day after the Liberals tabled an inaugural budget packed with new spending, the government found itself on the defensive over the lack of a firm plan to eventually eliminate billions in looming deficits.

The Liberal budget projected $113.2 billion in red ink over the next five years, due in large part to increased funding in numerous areas. On the other side of the balance sheet, however, there was no indication of when, how or if the budget might eventually be balanced.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau began the process of selling their fiscal plan — and found themselves defending the lack of solid fiscal targets.

Pressed on the issue during a Radio-Canada interview, Trudeau maintained that the objective of the budget was not "to reach some mathematical balance" but to provide "optimism and trust" to Canadians.

Morneau later said the government's goal "is to get to a balanced budget over approximately" five years — depending on how much economic growth the Liberal blueprint generates.

Both men argued that some of the budget's biggest spending, such as on infrastructure and the revamped multibillion-dollar Canada child benefit, would generate much-needed growth and eventually balance the books.

"Our priority right now is to make those investments that can make a difference," said Morneau, who was also asked if the government would stop spending at some point if the growth fails to kick in.

"Our goal is to focus on where we're at each year as we put forth the budget.... We'll worry about budget 2017 in 2017."

The Liberal numbers also include a $6-billion adjustment for risk, which could ultimately help the government beat low fiscal expectations and balance the books even earlier than forecast.

Experts like former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page called the budget's lack of formal targets "a major, strategic failure" for the government.

"It was just a gaping hole.... You can't have a budget without a fiscal plan," said Page.

The government doesn't necessarily have to set a timetable to rebalance the budget, Page said, but big-ticket spending carries with it a responsibility to explain where the money is going to come from. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shakes hands with Minister Bill Morneau after his budget speech. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

29.4B
projected federal budget deficit in 2016-17

8.4B
spending on Indigenous Affairs, including education and water quality

1.15B
increase to Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors

11.9B
new infrastructure spending over five years

3.74B
new, tweaked tax measures aimed at the middle class and families with children

MILITARY

Windfall no perfect victory for veterans

The new federal budget showers the country's veterans with cash, but questions lingered Wednesday about the details and just how far the money will go toward improving the lives of former soldiers.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau's fiscal plan delivers $5.6 billion — $3.7 billion booked in the current fiscal year — for better programs and services for the most critically injured former military members. The money will be spread out over decades.

One of the Liberal promises to veterans in the last election was to return to a pension-for-life system — or provide soldiers a choice between that and a lump-sum option. There was no sign of such a change in Tuesday's budget, but Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr says the government still backs the promise.

"This is clearly in my mandate letter," Hehr said Wednesday. "We're working towards implementing those commitments we made during the election and going forward."

> **We're working towards implementing those commitments we made during the election.**
> Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr

Hehr wouldn't speculate on how long that will take.

Advocates were left wondering about the pledge, in part because the budget raised the lump-sum disability award for wounds suffered in the line of duty to a maximum of $360,000 next year from the current $310,000. That's far below other countries such as Britain, where the payout is closer to $1 million.

Mike Blais, of Canadian Veterans Advocacy, said he remains unhappy and will continue to describe this as the "chump-sum award."

"It's no better than a worker's compensation settlement," said Blais.

He said the award should be equal to what a veteran would have received in a lifetime pension, which was how it worked until Parliament unanimously agreed in 2006 to overhaul the system and pay lump sums for pain and suffering settlements.

As a veteran injured in the 1990s, Blais gets a lifetime pension, which he said will far exceed what soldiers wounded on the battlefield in Afghanistan receive. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Aid money could help win security council seat

Canada needs to show that it is a generous aid donor if it wants to win a seat on the UN Security Council, says the international development minister.

Yet Marie-Claude Bibeau says that doesn't mean committing Canada to the UN's development spending goal of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. "I think that the .7 is too ambitious as a target," Bibeau said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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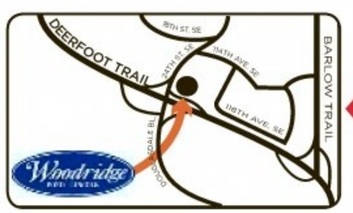

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IN BRIEF

Two attackers identified
Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui have been identified by a Belgian prosecutor as two of the bombers who killed more than 30 people in Brussels on Tuesday. Elder brother Ibrahim, 29, blew himself up at the airport. Khalid, 27, detonated his bomb at the Maelbeek subway station.

Khalid El Bakraoui, left, and Ibrahim El Bakraoui
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Brussels linked to Paris attacks in November
The suspected bombmaker in the Paris attacks in November was one of two suicide bombers who targeted the Brussels airport, officials said Wednesday, in a new sign that both attacks are linked to the same cell of Daesh.

Woman in attacks photo is Indian flight attendant
A woman sitting bloodied and dazed just moments after the Brussels airport bombings was one of the most haunting images from the attacks. The woman has been identified as Nidhi Chaphekar, a Jet Airways flight attendant from Mumbai. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nidhi Chaphekar
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers control passers by in Brussels on Wednesday, one day after attacks on the Brussels airport and at a metro station. More than 30 people were killed in Tuesday's attack. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bombers may have rushed terror attack

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

On day of mourning, details emerge on attackers

As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, evidence mounted Wednesday that the same Daesh (ISIL) cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants may have launched this week's slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday's bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 270, new information emerged about the four attackers.

- European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Najim Laachraoui, a Moroccan-born Belgian whom police have hunted as the suspected bombmaker in the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris that killed 130.
- The other two suicide bombers were Belgian-born brothers, Ibrahim El Bakraoui, and younger brother Khalid, both known to the police as common criminals, not anti-Western radicals.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ibrahim El Bakraoui was caught in June 2015 near Turkey's border with Syria and deported, at his own request, to the Netherlands, with Ankara warning Dutch and Belgian officials that he was a "foreign terrorist fighter." But other Turkish officials said he was released from Dutch custody due to lack of evidence of involvement in extremism.

Details of the investigation from chief prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw pointed to a rising sense of panic among the three bombers. An unidentified fourth man who was shown in airport video surveillance footage remains at large after Van Leeuw said his suitcase bomb failed to detonate properly. Authorities say he was the man in a light jacket and hat on the far right of the video footage. Van Leeuw said the bomb did partially explode after police had already evacuated the terminal. It injured no one.

The prosecutor said a laptop seized from a garbage can on a street outside the brothers' last known address contained a message purportedly from Ibrahim El Bakraoui that indicated he was expecting to be arrested following Friday's capture in Brussels of the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAESH

400 trained to fight

Daesh has trained at least 400 fighters to target Europe in deadly waves of attacks, deploying interlocking terror cells like the ones that struck Brussels and Paris with orders to choose the time, place and method for maximum carnage, officials have told The Associated Press.

The network of agile and semi-autonomous cells shows the reach of the extremist group in Europe even as it loses ground in Syria and Iraq.

The officials, including European and Iraqi intelligence officials and a French lawmaker who follows the jihadi networks, described camps in Syria, Iraq and possibly the former Soviet bloc where attackers are trained to attack the West.

Before being killed in a police raid, the ringleader of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks claimed he had entered Europe in a multinational group of 90 fighters, who scattered "more or less everywhere."

But the biggest break yet in the Paris attacks investigation — Friday's arrest of fugitive Salah Abdeslam — did not thwart the multi-pronged attack just four days later on the Belgian capital's airport and subway that left 31 people dead and an estimated 270 wounded. Three suicide bombers also died.

Just as in Paris, Belgian authorities were searching for at least one fugitive in Tuesday's attacks — this time for a man wearing a white jacket who was seen on airport security footage with the two suicide attackers. The fear is that the man, whose identity Belgian officials say is not known, will find Abdeslam's path instructive.

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Candidate angers U.S. Muslims

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Daesh doesn't represent Islam, advocates say

A few miles from Disneyland is a place most California tourists never see. The signs along the thoroughfare suddenly switch to Arabic script advertising hookah shops, Middle Eastern sweets, halal meat and travel services.

In Little Arabia, flags from a half-dozen Muslim countries flap in a stiff breeze. Flying above them all is a giant American flag.

After Sen. Ted Cruz called for increased surveillance of Muslims in the U.S., this Muslim community and others like it defied the Republican presidential candidate and defended their commitment to the United States. The editor of an Arabic-language newspaper said Muslims are "already part of the country, whether he likes it or not."

Inside a Lebanese eatery called Forn Al Hara, immigrants from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq debated the latest political rhetoric from the GOP candidates.

"I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American," said Omar Ghanim, 23, who grew up in Southern California with parents of Palestinian heritage. "Everything's the same between me and the rest of the Americans out there. There's nothing really different about us."

Cruz's comments on Tuesday came hours after the deadly attacks at the Brussels airport and a subway station that killed dozens of people and wounded many more. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Ghanim said the extremist group Daesh doesn't represent his faith. "We're a peaceful people. We're not violent."

Cruz said Tuesday that law enforcement should be empowered to "patrol and secure Muslim neighbourhoods before they become radicalized." Echoing earlier statements from rival Donald Trump, Cruz also said the U.S. should stop the flow of refugees from countries where Daesh has a significant presence.

Muslims across the country and groups including the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Anti-Defamation League condemned Cruz's statements. Many complained that the Islamic extremist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, and the intensifying rhetoric of the presidential campaign, have steadily ratcheted up animosity against American Muslims.

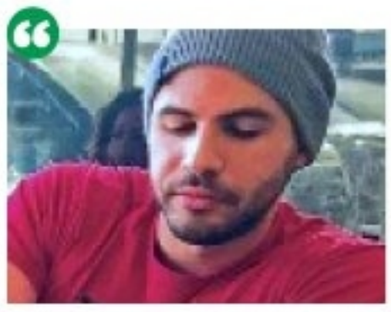
Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the weekly Arab World newspaper and one of the immigrants who helped build Little Arabia, said anti-Muslim statements are "nothing new."

"This has been going on in every Islamic neighbourhood for years," he said. "But now our kids are in the police, in the Army. Are they going to watch us?"

He said Cruz's remarks seemed aimed at exploiting prejudice to get votes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the Arabic-language community newspaper The Arab World, comments on remarks made by Sen. Ted Cruz about Muslim Americans in the wake of terrorist attacks in Belgium. GILLIAN FLACCUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American ... There's nothing really different about us.
Omar Ghanim

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Cruz gets endorsement from Jeb Bush

Republican Ted Cruz picked up a key endorsement Wednesday from Jeb Bush, who said their party must beat back "the divisiveness and vulgarity" of front-running New York billionaire Donald Trump.

Bush's endorsement came after Trump won the Republican primary in Arizona on Tuesday but lost the Utah caucus to Cruz, the first-term Texas senator and ultra-conservative beacon in a race for the party's presidential nomination that has caused a near civil war among Republicans.

Bush, once seen as the likely nominee but whose candidacy never gained momentum, tweeted Wednesday that Cruz is a "consistent, principled conservative who has shown he can unite the party." Bush added on Facebook that Republicans "must overcome the divisiveness and vulgarity Donald Trump has brought into the political arena" or risk losing to Hillary Clinton, the increasingly likely Democratic nominee.

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON A THROWBACK BUDGET

Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. His budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

For all the talk about a new activist federal era, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's first budget largely picks up where Paul Martin left off — at least when it comes to spending priorities.

Improving the terms of the relationship between Canada and its indigenous people was front and centre on the former Liberal prime minister's radar. At the time of its defeat in 2005, the Martin government was about to start implementing the Kelowna Accord.

Martin had also spent his final years as minister of finance advocating a new fiscal pact between the federal government and Canada's big cities. As prime minister, he had set out to translate his intentions into actions

Both files emerged as major priorities in Tuesday's budget with billions of dollars to be spent on the municipal and indigenous fronts over the next few years.

But this week's budget also demonstrates that turning back the clock a decade is easier said than done. Much water or, in this case, much federal wealth in the shape of tax cuts has flowed under the bridge over the past 10 years.

Martin's spending plans were to be financed out of impressive federal budget surpluses, and he had a revenue base that ensured those would keep on coming.

By comparison, Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. Tuesday's Liberal budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

On the contrary, instead of erasing Harper's fiscal footprint, the Liberals have chosen to tiptoe around it.

For, of all the signature Conservative policies, a twice-lowered GST seems the most likely to survive the transition to a different government. On the day after the budget, Trudeau categorically maintained that he would not be raising the tax back to its pre-Harper level of seven per cent.

This lack of political fortitude is understandable. The Liberals did not talk about the GST at the time of the election campaign. No party would then go near what strategists saw as the third rail of federal fiscal politics. There was no political cover for Trudeau to talk about raising it before the election and there still is not now that he is in office.

Given a choice between slaying the sacred cow of a lower GST, or breaking with the doctrine of balanced budgets, Trudeau's Liberals determined that the path of least public resistance led to the latter.

But with every GST point worth about $7 billion a year to a cash-starved federal government, good politics stands to make for crippling fiscal policy.

None of the other tax changes of the first Liberal budget really addresses the shrunken capacity of the federal government to raise revenues on par with its policy ambitions.

A string of projected yearly deficits that stretches beyond the current mandate speaks to the existence of a structural gap between those ambitions and the fiscal capacity to fulfil them. More than a low-growth economic cycle is at play.

The last government to leave behind a solid budget surplus was that of Martin. None of the parties that ran in the last election would have produced a balanced budget this year without engaging in a round of spending cuts.

The main consequence of preserving Harper's GST legacy is to essentially leave the federal fiscal ship at the mercy of the vagaries of the world economy. But if the recent decade is any indication, it will be hard to raise that ship out of the red even in moderately good times and/or to keep it on a steady deficit-free course. With so much money committed to recurring tax cuts, it is hard to see how major federal initiatives on the social policy front would be sustainable in the future.

Based on the budget roadmap sketched out this week, one might presume either that any major spending such as more money for health care that did not make the cut of this first budget is unlikely to materialize over the course of the current mandate, or else that the deficit projections put forward by Finance Minister Bill Morneau — as high as they may seem — are actually a floor.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Fertility Awareness Technology

With trust in pharmaceutical companies not what it once was (and condom approval ratings about where they've always been), women either seeking or avoiding pregnancy are choosing in greater numbers to rely not on drugs or polymer prophylactics but on ... their own bodies. Apps like Glow, Clue and Kindara (one of whose founders hails from Toronto) make it easier for women to monitor body temperature, fluids, and other menstrual indicators so that they can take control of their fertility. Outside of activity trackers, they happen to be the most downloaded health apps in the Apple Store. SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES; IMAGE: KINDARA.COM

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If Ghomeshi skates, a movement will be emboldened

Will Ghomeshi walk? The long stream of bombshells that was Jian Ghomeshi's sexual-assault trial comes down to that question.

And when Justice William B. Horkins delivers his verdict, journalists, lawyers and observers expect the same: Not guilty, on all counts.

Ghomeshi's lawyer, Marie Henein, left the proceedings swimming in reasonable doubt from pothole-ridden testimony. Consent was nowhere to be found, and it didn't matter.

But with apologies to the three complainants, for whom that certainly isn't the best outcome — a not-guilty sweep might be what Canada needs.

It would further galvanize the protests planned in Toronto today, and perhaps spur others. It would infuriate onlookers dismayed at the adversarial, even cruel, dynamics of the courtroom.

It wouldn't surprise sexual-violence advocates who have, for decades, watched an impotent justice system download the fallout of sexual assaults directly onto the victims, as it routinely fails to engender their trust.

But it will give those advocates an extra high-profile bit of ammunition. And they need all the help they can get.

It's been 40 years since rape-shield laws were introduced, but, still, only about 10 per cent of sexual assaults are reported to police, never mind adjudicated in the courts.

In past years, and again since the start of this trial, various reforms have been batted around, including creating a courts for sexual assaults, inspired by those for mental health sufferers. Also: restorative justice; trying sexual assaults as civil cases, in which where the burden of proof is a "balance of probabilities," instead of the "beyond a shadow of a doubt" standard of criminal court; and dedicated lawyers for complainants, to correct the imbalance that results when only the accused gets a lawyer in a he-said-she-said trial where physical evidence and third-party witnesses are in short supply.

Each idea has merit, and yet nothing has been done. This country needs anger.

An acquittal may well be the correct verdict, in legal terms. It could also be the correct sentence in a trial that has been set up, from the beginning, as our big chance to collectively witness systemic failings, and demand change.

Pamela Cross, a lawyer and long-time advocate for sexual assault victims, already believes the conditions are right, regardless of the verdict. "Canadians are talking about sexual assault in a way that really has never happened before," she told me.

But if we need that extra push, not-guilty could do it.

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metro WEEKEND
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MOVIES BOOKS TELEVISION DIGITAL

Henry Cavill is the latest incarnation of Superman in Batman v Superman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

BATMAN V SUPERMAN

From the film to the box office, superheroes fight it out

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Superhero geeks need not fear, this column will contain no spoilers.

In Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, the world's two most famous caped crime fighters throw down, wrestling literally and figuratively to determine what kind of hero is best suited to serve the world's needs.

The story picks up after the action in Man of Steel, which saw Superman (the square-jawed Henry Cavill) protect the planet by destroying half of Metropolis in an epic battle with the evil General Zod (Michael Shannon).

Batman (Ben Affleck), unimpressed with the collateral damage, joins the contingent of folks who see the Last Son of Krypton not as a champion but an alien threat. A battle ensues.

Who will win? Other than Kryptonite, Superman has no known weaknesses, so this would seem like a fairly one-sided fight, but Batman has skills as well, so who knows?

To get to the bottom of the matter I held a highly unscientific Facebook Batman v Superman poll to determine a winner. It drew mixed results.

"Brains over brawn," wrote one FB friend, "Batman for the win!"

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 ★★
Eye in the Sky ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

"Superman could basically fly down at super speed striking Batman before he could even sense he was coming and turn the Bat into vapour," wrote a Superman fan.

Another wasn't so sure. "Both seem to wear their underwear over their pants... it is a tough call." Whatever the outcome, expect a wild showdown. But that's on screen. It's make-believe. What about Reel Life v Real Life?

The Caped Crusader and Supes have been duking it out for decades at the box office but Batman, specifically the Christian Bale era, comes out on top. The Dark Knight Rises and The Dark Knight KO the competition, with the 1978 Superman, the first Tim Burton Batman and the recent Man of Steel rounding out the top five.

Batman also brings in the lion's share of the marketing money. According to comicbookmovie.com Batman sells almost two-to-one to Superman products.

That means more parents dress their kids as Batman than Superman at Halloween and that includes Ben Affleck and Christian Bale who met at a costume store last year as they shopped for Batman outfits for their kids.

What about prestige? Again Batman is victorious, with three Academy Award winners — Affleck, Bale and George Clooney — playing the Bat at one time or another.

As for the Metropolis Marvel, Oscar winners Robert Redford and Clint Eastwood both turned down the role as did best actor nominee James Caan who said, "There's no way I'm wearing that silly suit." Oscar winner Nic Cage wore the suit but his Superman story never made it before the cameras.

So far my Reel Life v Real Life look at Batman v Superman favours the Dark Knight, but Clark Kent's alter ego is still a formidable foe.

Keep in mind, without Superman there may never have been a Batman.

Predating the Caped Crusader, the Man of Steel is a pioneer whose popularity helped create the superhero genre. Since then he's been ubiquitous, inspiring an American Sign Language symbol, movie serials, TV shows, comic strips, pop songs — (Wish I Could Fly Like) Superman by The Kinks among many others — and even a Broadway musical called It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman.

Finally, as one of my Facebook friends pointed out, Superman has at least one insurmountable advantage over Batman: "If Superman loses the fight he can fly back in time to fight again."

Amy Adams is no damsel in distress

INTERVIEW

Actress returns as Lois Lane and dishes on her super role

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Amy Adams steps back into the iconic role of Lois Lane for Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice three years after her first outing, Man of Steel. Just don't call her a damsel in distress.

While her character may still need rescuing from time to time, the fact that it's Superman doing the rescuing should count for something, right?

This movie had quite a lengthy production.
I don't know how long, I was involved for about six months of it, on and off. Coming and going, so yeah. But they prepped for a really long time. That's the thing that nobody sees, all the prep that goes into it. They're prepping Justice League right now, so I'm sure Zack's exhausted.

In taking on an icon like Lois Lane, what do you think are the more intrinsic parts about the character that you have to get across?
I think she's kind of a little ball-busting. I'd like to put it nicer, but I don't know how to put it nicer. She's sassy! (laughs) But yeah, she kind of has a lot of moxie, so you've got to get that across.

You know, you have to get that she kind of goes into situations that get her in a lot of trouble, that require a certain amount of rescuing. I shy away from "damsel in distress," though. You have to kind of build that into the character as a sort of energy that you feel like she's a woman who fought her way to where she is and really digs in.

Amy Adams comes out to play Lois Lane a second time in Batman v Superman. CONTRIBUTED

The fact that she gets to be rescued by Superman rather than she just needing to be rescued by a normal person ...
She understands going into these situations, there's a very real possibility that dangerous things can and will happen to her.

So I don't think she goes in with the idea that someone will save her — well, maybe she does now that she's got an in. "Oh, I wouldn't mess with me, it doesn't end well, I've seen it. I've seen what happens." He can get here really fast.

Super fast.

It feels like Superman hasn't done a very good job explaining himself to the human race in general, but he seems to communicate well with Lois.
I think she's in a relationship with Clark, and the rest of the world is in a relationship with Superman, so I know him as a human being, his human side. I know he's an alien, but I know him as a man — Clark the man.

It's nice to get to play to with Clark because Lois doesn't always get to do that in the history of Lois. She's usually not in a relationship with Clark, she's in a relationship with Superman.

Do you have an idea of where that can go?
She accepts that they're same person. Superman is the title that's been given to him by the world, but she calls him Clark. She's never like, "Superman!" She calls after him, it's always Clark. He's just Clark to her.

BEN AFFLECK

Putting rumours to rest
While doing press for Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, Ben Affleck has found himself addressing a lot of misconceptions. One he's more than happy to clear up? The suggestion that he was originally offered the gig of directing 2013's Man of Steel before Zack Snyder.

"It's not true that I turned down Man of Steel," Affleck insists. "I learned a lot from Zack on this movie. One of the really valuable things about it for me, aside from the personal experience of playing the part, was watching a guy who really understands how to make films on this level, with cutting-edge technology, combining in-camera stuff with visual effects and stunts and all the tools at a director's disposal, and seeing how Zack meticulously constructed them using hand-drawn storyboards, frame by frame and evolving into the movie that you saw, in a fairly consistent vision."

NED EHRBAR/METRO

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MILITARY THRILLER

Director kept seeing Helen Mirren as mission leader

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Drones are certainly one of the technological marvels of the modern age — albeit a curiosity that is fraught with controversy.

In fact, military drones have specifically been scrutinized for the perception that the remote-controlled flying gadgets are largely responsible for reckless deaths in war zones. For former lawyer-turned-filmmaker Gavin Hood, it was an issue absolutely ripe for the cinema.

"For me, the script was an invitation to a highly-charged debate," explained Hood while promoting his new drama Eye in the Sky. "It presents multiple points-of-view and moral, ethical and legal arguments around the question of drone warfare and leaves the audience in the position of a juror in a jury trial."

The taut thriller focuses in particular on a mission led by an authoritative military colonel (played by Helen Mirren) set on taking out via drone the terrorist she's tracked for years. However, when a nine-year old Kenyan innocent gets within range, the showdown to strike escalates into a fiery moral incident.

"When I was reading the script, I just kept seeing Helen Mirren in my head," said Hood of the mission leader that was originally written as a male character. "I kept thinking which actor could play this role and it had nothing to do with gender. (A film like this) needs actors who can give you what she does so well — which is moments of humor, moments of nuance, moments of manipulation — that enrich every scene."

Hood adds modifying the military role for Mirren also had little to do with the recent raucous raised by a recent USC study spotlighting Hollywood's major diversity problem. Instead, his choice simply reflected a humble attempt to craft an authentic story.

"The fact is that more and more women are joining the military," stated the 52-year-old director behind hits like X-Men Origins: Wolverine and 2006's Foreign Language Oscar-winner Tsotsi. "There are women in (military intelligence officer) roles and there are more and more women in the role of drone sensor operators, drone pilots and behind the scenes, which is why there are so many women in the film. That's not us being politically correct, that's just a reality of what's happening."

Helen Mirren stars as a colonel on a mission in highly charged drama Eye in the Sky. HANDOUT

FILM NOTES

Time in army fuels plot

Gavin Hood was drafted into the army at 17 — something that informed his filmmaking career.

"As a young person starting out making films you don't necessarily know why you're drawn to certain things," said Hood. "But now that I'm over 50, I do seem to still be working out a great deal of questions (from) those two years in the military."

Director Gavin Hood HANDOUT

In memoriam...

Eye in the Sky will also mark one of respected thespian Alan Rickman's very last films — having passed away in January.

"This was a man of wonderful intelligence, genuine kindness, great wit and I think we were very lucky to have him in the film," said Hood.

"What he's able to do with just the raise of any eyebrow or the slightest twist on a line is enrich a scene."

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Greek Wedding star calls out Hollywood

NIA VARDALOS

On battling sexism in Tinseltown and onscreen

It wasn't long after My Big Fat Greek Wedding exploded at the box office that Hollywood began pestering its star Nia Vardalos for a sequel.

The Winnipeg-bred breakout declined, turning instead to other comedic followups including Connie and Carla, I Hate Valentine's Day and My Life in Ruins.

But none had the impact of her surprising family-friendly smash, which centred on an unassuming Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek suitor, played by John Corbett.

Vardalos adds she was also focused on other matters, including efforts to become a mother that resulted in the adoption of a little girl.

Now older, wiser and inspired by her own new family adventures, Vardalos reprises her role as Toula Portokalos in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2.

Vardalos chatted with The Canadian Press by phone from New York.

Tell me about some projects over the years that haven't been able to take root.

I definitely lost control and then gained it and lost it. It is a process and getting a film made is difficult, period. Hollywood is still the most archaic place. It is the one place where a review can talk about a woman's looks and you can not get a job simply because you're female. It's outdated and we have to push through.

Can you describe some of these scripts you've been asked to rework?

It will say about the female: "Late 20s. Beautiful but doesn't know it. Kittenish, sexy." (And then) it'll say: "Guy, 40s. A sense of being that far exceeds his years." You know, there's no reference to being handsome ... It'll never say: "Chiselled jaw line, pecs to die for." Can you imagine reading that in a screenplay? It wouldn't be written and people would laugh out loud. But it's certainly written about the women. And we just call them on it, we just laugh.

We've had symposiums at the Writers Guild with men and women there talking about how when ... we have to incite peril for a woman during sweeps' week the writers will pitch, 'OK, so let's get her raped.' And it's rough. It's really, really bad. We're creating a rape culture. And we're trying to pull back from it and that's what these meetings do where we have to call each other on what we're doing wrong. And try to get things out there.

It's really, really hard to get a family comedy made, especially a PG-13 one.... If this movie doesn't do well there will be another 15 years where we wait for another one. And that's a bummer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nia Vardalos and John Corbett are reunited in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2. HANDOUT

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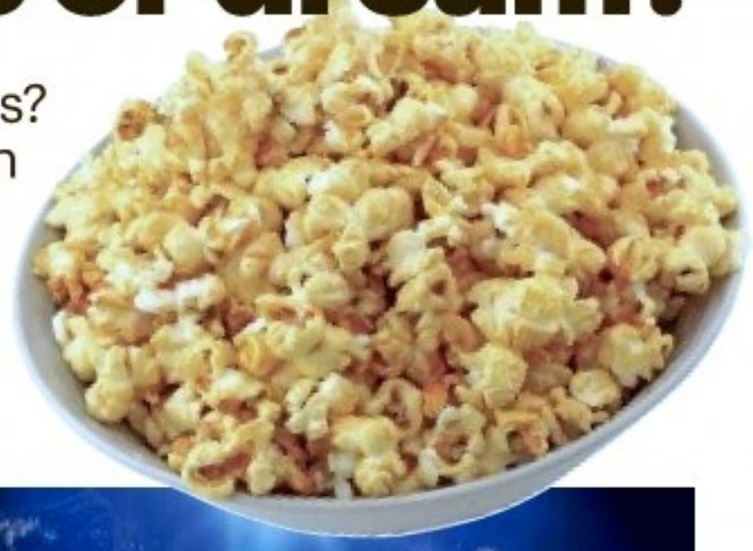
A movie lover's nightmare or dream?



Is it the dumbest idea since Smell-O-Vision or a boon for movie lovers? The Screening Room is a startup backed by Napster co-founder Sean Parker and music executive Prem Akkaraju that would bring first-run films directly into people's homes. The service has the support of some major filmmakers, but its existence depends on the co-operation of studios and exhibitors, which seems unlikely. Still, Torstar's writers weighed the pros and cons. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CON - THE ECONOMICS DON'T MAKE SENSE

Peter Howell
Torstar Movie Writer

Piracy will go through the roof

Pirates already cost the movie industry billions of dollars each year in lost revenue. And that's with surveillance systems that make taping films off the screen relatively difficult in public places.

Imagine how much more money will be lost when pirates can make near-perfect copies of first-run movies in the privacy of their own home.

It's because of this that you'd be unlikely to see a Star Wars or Avengers movie screened via this service, despite the enthusiasm expressed by a few misguided blockbuster directors.

It will diminish the moviegoing experience

Since the creation of movies more than a century ago, the experience of seeing one has always been about more than just viewing images on a screen.

It's fine to watch a film on a TV or laptop, but it's not the optimal way to do it.

Watching a film outside of a conventional theatre also means missing out on the audience sharing that is part of everybody's most powerful movie memories.

It will kill small theatres and many jobs

It's no secret that the ticket price alone doesn't pay for a night out at the movies.

The multiplexes could probably make a go of it, since they run the Star Wars and Transformers movies that will always pull in fans who want the ultimate viewing experience, along with the snacks.

But everything short of a blockbuster could play well on a home screen, robbing smaller theatres and art houses (such as TIFF Bell Lightbox) of patrons and purchases they need to keep their lights on and staff employed.

It doesn't make any economic sense

Parker's talking about charging people $150 for a standalone box for their TVs. Then there's the $50 peruse fee — $65 Canadian, at current exchange rates. To make that work, you'd have to have at least four people at a time gather to watch a film, something that many people wouldn't do on a regular basis.

CRITIQUE
THE SCHEME TO BRING FIRST-RUN FLICKS INTO HOMES

PRO - MEETS DEMAND FOR CONSUMER CHOICE

Linda Barnard
Torstar Movie Writer

Serving the needs of movie lovers

Better theatre experiences for the rest of us: I can always tell when a movie sags and starts to lose its audience: the phones come out. So if Screening Room means selfish morons who can't resist checking Instagram feeds in the middle of a film can do that at home — while yakking to their seatmate, noisily rooting around in buckets of popcorn and tearing open loud candy packages, all while kicking the chair in front of them — it can only be a good thing.

It's the future

Major filmmakers are finding new routes to get their work in front of audiences, even if traditional types in Hollywood react with Oscar-nomination snubs, as with Cary Fukunaga's powerful Beasts of No Nation, which screened at Venice and TIFF before its Netflix worldwide release. Spike Lee's Chi-Raq, produced by Amazon Studios, had a brief theatrical run in December in the U.S. before quickly landing on Amazon Prime.

It opened in Toronto March 18 and was available on iTunes and VOD platforms the same day. Consumers are demanding different kinds of access and Screening Room would give them a choice.

A matter of choice

A joint 2015 Telefilm Canada-Show Canada-ERm Research study showed two-thirds of the Canadian population age 13 and up goes to the movies, seeing an average of five movies a year.

Why wouldn't the movie industry want to get its hands on the wallets of the rest of the population and more often? Theatre owners and movie distributors have always balked at shortened windows for films making the transition from big screens to personal viewing but we love to watch movies and should have a choice in how we see them, whether it's an indie movie house, multiplex or on the couch.

Hollywood will have to sink piracy

Piracy costs the movie industry dearly each year in lost revenue. Wouldn't putting a first-run flick into the hands of home users be irresistible to cheats and scofflaws? Not if enough safeguards are put in place to prevent content theft sites from getting their mitts on the movies.

With those who potentially have much to lose, including filmmakers Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson and J.J. Abrams backing Screening Room, there must be some faith in the potential to dodge piracy.

ISTOCK

NEW MOVIE

Bridget Jones is having a baby this fall

The first full trailer has been released for the third installment of Bridget Jones' Diary, one day after a short teaser for the film went viral.

Renee Zellweger is back for her title role in "Bridget Jones' Baby," which also sees Colin Firth stepping back into the shoes of Mark Darcy, as well as Patrick Dempsey as a second love interest for the zany singleton.

Loosely based on the Bridget Jones' Diary book series, authored by Helen Fielding, Bridget Jones' Baby follows Jones in her 40s, ending in a love triangle and debacle over who is the father of her future child.

British heavyweight actress Emma Thompson also makes a cameo as Bridget Jones' obstetrician.

Bridget Jones' Baby comes out on September 16.

AFP

Renee Zellweger is back as Bridget Jones. CONTRIBUTED

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BELOW MARKET VALUE PRICING
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Private eye, scorned woman

DRAMA

The Catch puts women up front and behind scenes

This image released by ABC shows Mireille Enos, left, and Peter Krause in a scene from The Catch, airing Thursday at 10 p.m. ET on ABC. RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/ABC VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the set of ABC's new crime-and-caper drama The Catch, Vesper Vivianne Ruck called out "Action!"

The take, featuring her mother, series star Mireille Enos, clearly met with her approval and she called out "Cut!"

A bit later, Vesper ran into Peter Krause, her mom's co-star, and proudly announced she had just landed her first directing job.

"She's precocious," says Enos of five-year-old Vesper, who had made the most of her visit to the set. "She wants to take over the world."

Spoiler alert: Read no further if you want to preserve the first of what will likely be a long line of hairpin story twists served up by The Catch.

The thing is, Alice is in love with a perfect guy, Benjamin Jones. Played by the always-appealing Krause (late of Parenthood and Six Feet Under), Ben is rich, charming and caters to her every need. After a year of dating, he has popped the question.

But in the blink of an eye, he (along with his false identity) disappears, conning Alice out of her life savings in the process.

"Are you ready to play?" her scamming ex mocks Alice in a catch-me-if-you-can parting shot.

"She is a powerful girl on the planet," says Enos during a phone interview. "She is feisty and energetic and playful and loving. And then this terrible thing happens that throws her on a mission: finding the man who broke her heart."

Alice, backed with her firm's varied but attractive team, will tackle other cases each week, but finding Mr. Right-Gone-Wrong will be Job One.

And here's yet another twist: Despite Ben's lifelong career as a high-end flimflammer, it's possible he really loves her and wishes he could win her back.

"I like to think of the show as The Thomas Crown Affair meets Romeo and Juliet," says Enos, "with star-crossed lovers who are meant to be together while the world is conspiring against them."

The Catch returns Mireille to the role of detective, but Alice Vaughan, who favours Louboutins, is a vastly different brand of gumshoe from Enos' previous role, that of Homicide Detective Sarah Linden on AMC's The Killing, where she was brooding and haunted as she trudged through a ghastly murder investigation soaked in Seattle rain.

By contrast, L.A. sun and sheen prevail on The Catch, where Enos is as glammed-up as she was dressed-down in The Killing. "You gotta keep mixing it up, right?" she laughs at the mention of her TV makeover. "Here in Los Angeles they're doing this bang-up job with publicity on buses and billboards, and I look up there at my shiny lips! Usually I only do dress-up-girl for the red carpet, and now I get to do it every day at work."

After The Killing, the Houston native, now 40, took time off to spend with Vesper, and then, 20 months ago, gave birth to a son, Larkin Zouey, with husband Alan Ruck (Spin City, Ferris Bueller's Day Off).

"I wasn't sure what my next job would be when I got back to work, but I was pretty sure it wouldn't be a new Shonda Rhimes caper!" Enos says gratefully. "That seems like a wonderful place to spend some years."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION

Woman power

The Catch joins the female-fueled portfolio of Shonda Rhimes and Betsy Beers, producers of Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and How to Get Away with Murder, as it inherits the latter series' time slot, 10 p.m. EDT on Thursday, a night whose prime-time schedule Rhimes owns across the board. (HTGAWM has ended its season.)

Enos, in her role as Los Angeles' top private investigator Alice Vaughan, continues the ShondaLand custom of centring its sagas on a woman who's strong, resourceful, sexy and successful, even as she falls short of superwoman status: Alice, like Shonda heroines Meredith Grey and Olivia Pope, also has a vulnerable streak.

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David Suzuki in October 2012. Suzuki says he isn't really one for birthdays, but he'll make an exception for his 80th.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suzuki on turning 80 and the failure of 'alarmism'

ENVIRONMENT

Broadcaster reflects on battles lost, won, repeated

David Suzuki says he really isn't one for birthdays, but he's making an exception for his 80th.

The life of the noted scientist, activist and broadcaster will be celebrated with a special broadcast of CBC's The Nature of Things on Thursday.

Reached by phone in Vancouver, Suzuki traces his cavalier attitude about birthdays to his boyhood, when his family was among the thousands of Japanese Canadians forcibly moved to internment camps following attacks on Pearl Harbor.

"I realized that it all was in the roots of the Second World War when we were shipped out of Vancouver into camps and we had nothing with us," Suzuki says. "I kind of grew up without thinking a great deal about birthdays."

But the 80th is special, he concedes."It's really funny, 50 was no big deal, (same with) 60, 70. But 80, you've got to realize, 'My God, you really are old.' There's no getting away from it!"

Suzuki chatted with The Canadian Press about celebrating milestones, recognizing failures and maintaining hope for the future.

Happy birthday! What will you be doing Thursday?
We're all going to our cabin on an island where we don't have a TV set and we're going to go to our neighbours' to watch the show.

I get the sense that family is paramount for you. You can't help but wonder what the world will be like when your grandchildren are 80.
Well, yeah, I've just come back yesterday from two weeks in Australia and we snorkelled on the Great Barrier Reef, which I always do when I go to Australia, and it was devastating this time. I first dove on the reef in 1989 and what I see now is a shadow of what it once was. It's devastating. You talk about looking to the future, it's very, very depressing.

> **You talk about looking to the future, it's very, very depressing. We've got to get off our ass, the world is in bad shape.**

People often refer to you as alarmist.
You're damn right. I don't know why this is supposed to be a bad word but, yes, I am an alarmist. I am raising the alarm and saying — especially now as an elder — I remember what the world was like when I was a boy. And yes it's true, our lives are immeasurably easier to live … and we can be very, very impressed with those things but at the same time, my grandchildren can't go fishing where I did when I was a boy, and the Barrier Reef is a mess and much of the forest of British Columbia has been invaded and cut down.

You've said the environmental movement has failed.
A lot of the victories that we thought we celebrated, certainly I did — stopping dams and stopping drilling and stopping supertankers — well, 30, 35 years later, the same problems have returned. We stopped Site C, the dam on the Peace River 35 years ago, we stopped it. But now (B.C. Premier) Christy (Clark) is going ahead and building it … And we stopped supertankers that were going to come down the B.C. coast from Alaska but now we're proposing to let supertankers start right off on the B.C. coast with things like pipelines. So what the hell has happened?

It sounds like the target has to shift, then.
We have to look at the world in a different way. And this is the real crisis, I think is that we somehow feel that we no longer live as part of nature. Because 85 per cent of Canadians live in big cities. And in a big city you think, "Well, my most important thing is my job, I need a job to earn money to buy my food and live in a house and all that." And so the economy becomes our highest priority and we forget that if you don't breath air for three minutes you're dead.

Now we have a new prime minister.
We have a new prime minister but he's got 10 years of no action to catch up on, more than 10 years because the previous government talked but didn't do much.

What's been your biggest achievement?
My proudest achievement is my children who I feel are very decent Canadians and they've worked hard all their lives and they're all environmentalists. I'm very, very proud of my children.

In terms of recognition, I guess to me one of the most delightful and satisfying things was becoming a companion of the Order of Canada. I can't imagine a higher honour from Canadians than that.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No talk show love for Rob Ford now

LACK OF CONDOLENCES

Once late night fodder, mayor not mentioned after his death

For a while, he was a nightly, go-to sensation on American talk shows. On the day of his death, however, there was no mention of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford on shows headlined by Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon, Conan O'Brien, Seth Myers or Trevor Noah.

Kimmel had Ford on as a guest two years ago this month. The former mayor tossed T-shirts into the studio audience before sweating through a segment where he stood watching one unflattering video after another.

By the time of his Kimmel appearance in Los Angeles, Ford had already admitted to smoking crack cocaine while in office.

"You love being mayor, don't you?" Kimmel asked in the third segment.

"I wasn't elected to be perfect, Jimmy," said Ford.

Rob Ford, left, has his forehead wiped by host Jimmy Kimmel on the late night talk show Jimmy Kimmel Live in March 2014. The former Toronto mayor died earlier this week. RANDY HOLMES/ABC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Get help," said Kimmel.

Tuesday, Kimmel tweeted out his respects for the former mayor and controller, who died Tuesday at 46:

"Condolences to the family and fans of @TorontoRobFord — an unforgettable guy who loved his job and city like few men I've met."

There were no jokes or even a respectful mention, however, in any of the late night monologues.

Ford did die on a busy day. There were U.S. primaries to make fun of, as well as U.S. president Obama's historic trip to Cuba, plus the deadly attacks in Belgium. Kimmel's first guest was Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders.

> **I wasn't elected to be perfect, Jimmy.**
> Rob Ford to the late night talk show host of Jimmy Kimmel Live

Noah, host of The Daily Show, got serious at the end of his program, offering condolences to the people of Belgium. Larry Wilmore, host of The Nightly Show, opened his show with a similar nod to the Belgium airport attack.

All of the hosts resumed mocking the politician who long ago eclipsed Ford as late night comedy fodder, Donald Trump.

Former New York Times TV writer Bill Carter, author of two books on late night, was surprised Ford was not mentioned on the Tuesday night telecasts. Ford's death, he suggests, was likely a "hard one to finesse for guys who had such fun at his expense." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Brave in an LGBTQ-phobic world

THE SHOW: Gaycation, Season 1, Episode 2 (VICE)
THE MOMENT: The admission

Ellen Page and Ian Daniel take on LGBTQ hatred around the globe in Gaycation. HANDOUT

Co-hosts Ellen Page and Ian Daniel are travelling the world, exploring how different cultures react to LGBTQ people. In Rio de Janeiro, they talk to an ex-cop, known only as El Grande, who hates gay people and has killed several.

"If I saw gay people I'd run them over," says El Grande, whose face and voice are disguised. "I think every pigsty must be cleaned out."

Page covers her mouth. "I want to say that I'm gay," she whispers to someone off-camera. "Do you think it's safe?"

She turns back to El Grande. "We're gay," she says. "Do you think it would be better for the world for us to be dead?"

After watching three episodes, I was briefly concerned that they weren't differentiated enough. People have different reasons for their homophobia — in Tokyo, it's about family pride; in Rio, it's about Catholicism — but the conversations have a similar arc. And as the hosts point out, a handful of people can't speak for a whole culture.

But then I realized the similarity was the point. Like good therapists, Page and Daniel are willing to say the same things, and hear the same things, over and over, in the hope that somewhere, something will click. Someone will see them differently, and a change will start to be made.

They certainly have the temperaments of therapists: Though often shaken (the statistics on violence against LGBTQ people are staggering), they remain calm. And brave. They keep the conversation going, hoping to be heard.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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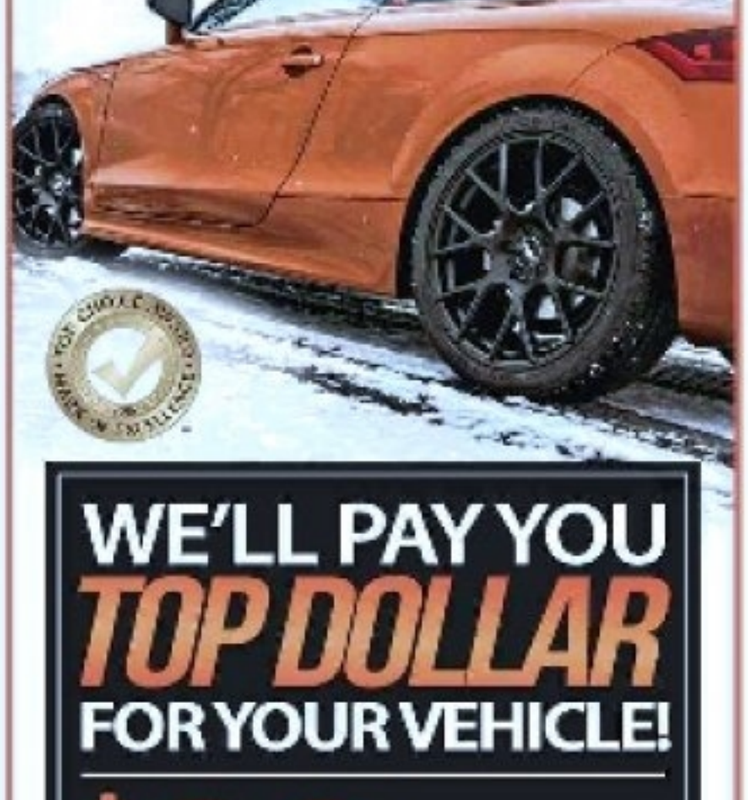

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Finally... when Griffin met Sabine

THE PHAROS GATE

Nick Bantock's long-distance lovers come face to face at last

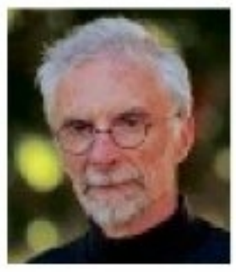
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Twenty-five years ago, before Nick Bantock's debut novel Griffin & Sabine became a multi-million bestseller and cultural phenomena, he was living on $12,000 a year working as an artist. Although he had illustrated covers for books, he never thought about writing them. But something about his "adult picture book" resonated with readers, and the next thing the British artist knew, he was catapulted into the international literary spotlight with appearances on breakfast shows and readings to packed rooms, an experience he now calls both exhilarating and bizarre.

Told through a trilogy of books, the story follows a London artist named Griffin, who creates lush, collaged images for postcards, and Sabine, who lives somewhere in the South Pacific illustrating stamps. The two never physically meet, but instead develop a metaphysical connection through their handwritten postcards and letters, which readers can physically pull out of their envelopes. Bantock, who now lives in Victoria, B.C., says the concept originally "came from seeing someone else in the post office getting good mail, and me getting the usual crap."

An illustration from The Pharos Gate: Griffin & Sabine's Lost Correspondence. HANDOUTS

At the end of the third novel in 1993, Bantockians, as his hardcore fans called themselves, despaired over the fate of the lovers. Would they ever set eyes on each other? More than two decades later, curiosity will now be satisfied with the release of The Pharos Gate: Griffin and Sabine's Lost Correspondence, as the two prepare to finally meet in person, despite looming dangers and distances. Although Bantock planted visual clues throughout all the books, the setting and era is intentionally ambiguous. Even if Bantock and his readers have aged, it's as if time stood still for Griffin and Sabine.



> **I found they articulate my journey as a human being better than anything else.**
> Griffin & Sabine author Nick Bantock

"That's part of the fun," he says. "You bury stuff in there so that those who want to dig can dig, but if you don't poke around, it doesn't matter. You can take it at face value or take the book as having a number of layers."

For Bantock, who is experiencing a "strange déjà vu" as he prepares to tour The Pharos Gate, the books represent more than just romance. He sees the two characters, and the marriage of text and image, as his personal hero's journey, representing "an internal dialogue between my logical and intuitive self. I found they articulate my journey as a human being better than anything else."

Of course the world has changed a lot in the 25 years since Griffin and Sabine first arrived, most obviously with social media and email replacing good old-fashioned letter writing. Bantock ultimately hopes the unique format and message behind The Pharos Gate will inspire a new generation of technology-obsessed readers to express themselves in more meaningful ways.

"I don't mean getting rid of the computer or playing luddite games," he says, "but if it can offer an alternative way of self-expression that encourages people to slow down at certain times of the day or the week, and articulate their ideas and feelings in a different way, then as far as I am concerned, the book will have succeeded."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

The beauty of simplicity

FOOD

Woman who 'taught France to cook' turns to Irish roots

Did you hear the one about the Irishwoman who taught the French how to cook? It may sound like some sort of dubious Irish joke. But in the case of Trish Deseine there is more than a grain of truth to the tale.

The farmer's daughter from County Antrim is one of France's bestselling food writers, having sold more than a million copies of her cookbooks. She is also credited with fundamentally changing the way millions of ordinary French people cook by taking away the fear of living up to one of the world's greatest culinary traditions.

With books like Petits Plats entre Amis (Little Dishes Between Friends) and Je Veux du Chocolat! (I Want Chocolate!), she taught a generation intimidated by long shadow of France's gastronomic greats to dare.

Even Deseine is still slighty bemused by her success. "I have theories, but I really don't know why," she told AFP.

"People felt liberated because I was taking the fuss out of cooking. I think maybe it was okay for an outsider to say you don't have to go through 50 complicated steps. My approach was very natural and direct and sensual."

HANDOUT

But having been France's Jamie Oliver and Nigella Lawson rolled into one, Deseine is now trying to crack an even harder nut.

Her new book, Mon Irlande, or Home in its English translation, is an attempt to bring the simple virtues of Irish cooking to the French and the rest of the world.

No easy task for a country more synonymous with a certain black liquid refreshment and a long history of famine and hunger than its food.

But Deseine, 51, is convinced its time has come.

After 30 years in France, Deseine described returning to live part of the year in Ireland as like "getting a big hug." And the food was a big part of that.

She rediscovered the simple joy of rustic wheaten bread and yellow salty butter, "one of the easiest breads you can make, that can be rustled up in half an hour."

In a world where restaurant plates are stacked with every kind of crossover cuisine, the book is a plea for plain food.

"Less is more every time," argued Deseine. "Rather than have this pile-up of flavours we need to get back to appreciating the local and learn how to really taste.

The book showcases some of the best chefs from the new wave of Irish cooking almost as much the traditional staples of bacon and cabbage, mackerel, pearl barley, seaweed, carrageen moss (another algae now much used and abused by the food and cosmetics industries) and oats — the Irish almond.

It was only afterwards that Deseine realised that there was "no vanilla and only one clove of garlic" in the whole book... "which proves how well you can eat" without ever leaving your own patch of earth.

AFP

"Rather than have this pile-up of flavours we need to get back to appreciating the local and learn how to really taste.

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Skin deep beauty of ink

Tattoos have changed in design, impact and popularity in the 100 years of body art studied by pop culture writer David McComb in a worldwide quest that culminated in the book 100 Years of Tattoos (Laurence King Publishing). A series of colourful photos and anecdotes which meticulously chronicles the artists involved and the societal norms of the time **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Early adopters

Sailors who travelled the world and wanted lasting mementos of their adventurous trips were one of the earliest and most persistent groups to seek out tattoos. They were often combined with a heart-shaped remembrance of the girl back home or a patriotic reference such as a flag during wartime. Paul Rogers, working as a tattooist since in 1932 in the U.S., operated out of a mobile home called The Iron Factory and developed a modern tattooing tool. "Iron" is the slang word used to describe tattoo tools.

Seafaring tattoos

The inspiration for nautical tattoos was a combination of the sailor's experiences and the artist's abilities and imagination. Percy Waters, working in Detroit in the early 1900s, established a successful tattoo supply business serving parlours across the country. Naval trip high points such as crossing the equator, local beauties both natural and human, elaborate ship rigging and the worlds "hold" and "fast" on a sailor's hands were all subjects to be inked. Waters created many templates which were copied by landlubbers.

Tats as rebellion

Japan banned tattoos for more than 50 years, beginning in the late 1800s, as it wanted to be seen as sophisticated in the west. This drove tattooing underground with the criminal classes inking themselves, showing they were members of gangs called Yakuza. Western occupying forces lifted the ban in 1948 and tattooing moved into the mainstream. Using a homemade tattoo machine fashioned out of an electric drill, this Japanese master sketches an elaborate geisha design on a woman's back.

Tattoo as art

This colourful, chaotic tattoo artist's studio seems to swirl before your eyes with its pulsating vitality. Mitsuaki Ohwada, of Yokohama, had such a large impact on the world of tattooing that he was invited to the Peabody Museum in Salem, Mass., to be part of its "The Art of the Japanese Tattoo" exhibit in 1986. The city of Yokohama heavily influenced the tattoo world when it was the first Japanese port opened to outsiders after 200 years of isolation in the late 1800s. Sailors and traders returned with these elaborate drawings.

Tattoo as fashion

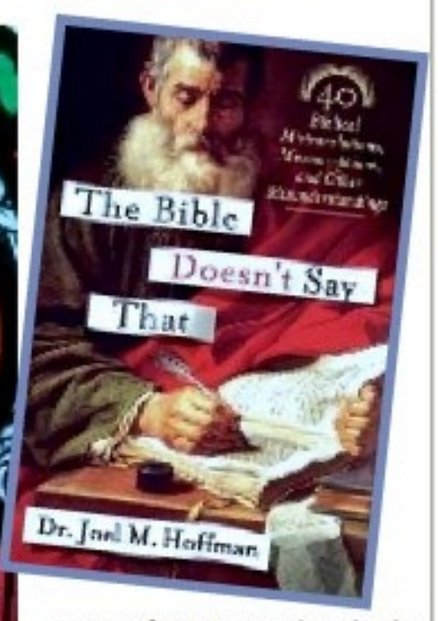
Westerners embraced the elaborate Japanese body art with its motifs of dragons, flowers, feathers, birds and every colour of the rainbow. French-born tattoo artist Tin Tin travelled Japan's tattoo parlours learning the style and methods which even included woodblock prints. Famous in France, his work is worn by fashion designers Marc Jacobs, Stafano Pilati and Jean Paul Gaultier. This is art as pure adornment, not a record of travels or events.

Bible a window into the human condition

IT'S COMPLICATED

We need Bible and science for richer life, author says

Joel M. Hoffman has done a lot of thinking about what the Bible actually says. Recently Torstar News Service talked to him about his book, The Bible Doesn't Say That, 40 Biblical Mistranslations, Misconceptions and Other Misunderstandings. Did Adam and Eve really eat an apple when they took fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Does Genesis contradict evolution? Does the New Testament replace justice from the Old Testament with love? Our conversation has been edited for length.



Noah and the ark is just one of the stories Joel H. Hoffman talks about in his book The Bible Doesn't Say That. ISTOCK

> **The Bible wasn't meant to convey facts. Facts take a backseat to understanding the human condition.**
> Author Joel M. Hoffman

There are two versions of the creation myth. In one, Eve was formed from Adam's rib (Genesis, chapter 2, verses 21-22). In an earlier telling, Eve and Adam were created at the same time in God's image, (Genesis, chapter 1, verse 27).
The different stories teach us different things about the nature of our lives. They are equally valid. According to one story, Eve was created so Adam wouldn't be alone. The other story teaches us that men and women are equal, they were both made in God's image and created on an equal footing.

Why do we blindly accept all these Bible stories — the flood and Noah's ark, for instance? How could every animal on Earth fit into that tiny ark?
It wasn't meant to be history. Even a cursory examination points out the numerous flaws in the story. It was meant to teach us things about the world. The early part of Genesis was designed to tell us how the world got to be the way it is. Things didn't work out so well the first time God created Earth. There were angels who came down and had mated with human women and fathered giants. And then there was wickedness on Earth.

God thought he had to start again. The flood story was about that. Noah is certainly a flawed character but the power of the Bible is in the way it speaks to the real human condition, not the idealized human condition. Even our heroes are flawed. You see it with Abraham, too. Going back to Noah, it raises the question of what does it mean to be righteous? Do you have to be perfect to be righteous or is perfection too much to ask for?

The Jews have often been targeted as the slayers of Christ and it has made them scapegoats and worse. But you point out there isn't a clear sense of who was responsible for the Crucifixion.
In terms of who killed Christ, some things are clear. It was not all of the Jews but there were some Jews involved. It is equally clear there were some Romans involved. As with most decisions at this level, the conversations took place in back channels. No minutes were kept so we don't know the details of how this decision was made.

The scapegoating of the Jews has less to do with the Jews' reputation for killing Christ. There are some people who were anti-Semitic and this was a fine place to hang their hat. Christ had to die to make Christian theology work. Christ could not die if there were no sins. Christ could have stopped this and he chose not to.

What about the virgin birth? How is it possible for Mary to get pregnant without having sexual intercourse with a man? Maybe she was just an innocent who didn't know what was happening?
Let me think carefully about the answer. I don't think it is my place to judge what the text is saying. Just understanding what the ancient text of the New Testament says involves peeling back a whole lot of grime that has accumulated in the form of misinterpretation over the past 2,000 years. The text says Jesus was born of a virgin birth. Now you can choose to believe it or not.

But you have to understand the Bible wasn't meant to convey facts. Facts take a back seat to understanding the human condition. It teaches us how we are supposed to treat each other and what we are all doing here. Today we focus on science and we shove it into everything we do.

There are creationists in the United States who think the Bible story should be taught instead of Darwin's theory of evolution.
Creationists have misunderstood the Bible's role. It was never intended to compete with science and there are two different stories of creation. Many people are grappling with how to live life in the scientific era. Two unfortunate results of that are hyperfundamentalists who literally believe in every word of the Bible or professional atheists who don't believe a word and think science should replace the Bible. You have a much richer life if you have both the Bible and science.

The Tea Party must think you are a heretic.
I lecture frequently throughout the Bible Belt and the reception is overwhelmingly positive. My experience is that a lot of people want to know what the Bible says before it was misinterpreted. The only negative feedback I got was from a group of Southern Baptists who preached against me because I dared to suggest that men and women were supposed to be equal in the Bible.

The Bible is a lot like a newspaper. There is news, commentary, reviews and comics. It doesn't mean there is something wrong with the newspaper. Certainly there are contradictions in the Bible but the Bible is meant to show that life is complicated. There are many interpretations and sides.

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New author hopes novel meets buzz

LITERATURE

The Nest tells of four adult siblings' fight for inheritance

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney was on her way to meet her family for brunch in New York when she had an idea for the opening scene of her debut novel, The Nest.

Sweeney imagined family members "all needing to meet but all needing a drink before they met and all getting their drink in proximity to each other without knowing that they were all doing the same thing," she said in a recent phone interview from her home in Los Angeles.

She was intrigued by why they needed to drink before seeing one another and what the meeting was about.

As for The Nest, Sweeney said she's surprised by "how little I had to know going in. I wrote my way along. When I would start to panic I would just remind myself that I only had to figure out what happened in the next chapter, what happened in the next scene. I didn't have to be looking way, way down the road. What surprised me is when you take that incremental approach, you do reach a tipping point where all of a sudden things start to come together."

As Sweeney found her story, she also found a lot of interest from the publishing world.

The Nest, which was published Tuesday, was snapped up in a seven-figure deal by Ecco, a HarperCollins imprint.

A book trailer featuring actress Ellie Kemper and Transparent creator Jill Soloway talking about their own families is available online.

Amy Poehler praises the book as "intoxicating" in a quote on the front cover of The Nest.

"She's been a friend of mine for a long time; I'm really, really lucky," Sweeney said.

"Amy and I met right after she moved to New York, and in fact, we met in a book club. It was very short-lived. It was a lot of performers in the comedy improv world, so everyone was always cancelling at the last minute. Finally it was like, 'Why don't we go out for cocktails instead? Forget the book part.'"

Sweeney said one of the "weirdest" things for her has been all the talk about the book before its publication date. "My family members are really confused. I keep getting emails like, 'How are there reviews on Amazon? When can we get the book?'"

ECCO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So, why does she think people are so interested in the novel?

"The combination of family and money is very potent and it really, really seems to strike a chord with people."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. HANDOUT

Prince announces memoir

MUSIC INDUSTRY

Autobiography coming of one of enduring musical greats

Prince's new memoir promises to be 'unconventional.' AFP

Prince, one of the most influential but elusive figures in music, on Friday announced a memoir and, in less of a surprise, his publisher said it would be "unconventional."

The 57-year-old "Kid from Minneapolis" will release his first book, whose title has not been revealed, in late 2017, publisher Spiegel and Grau said.

The Random House imprint said that Prince's book would be "an unconventional and poetic journey" through the life and music of the Purple One.

"Prince is a towering figure in global culture and his music has been the soundtrack for untold numbers of people — including me — for more than a generation; his creative genius has provided the musical landscape of our lives," executive editor Christopher Jackson said in a statement.

"Millions of words have been written about Prince — books and articles, essays and criticism — but we're thrilled to be publishing Prince's powerful reflections on his own life in his own incandescently vivid, witty and poetic voice," he said.

Jackson is best known for editing Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a personal reflection on the history of racism in the United States that won the National Book Award.

Prince became an international sensation in the 1980s as he popularized the Minneapolis Sound of danceable funk, with 1984's Purple Rain often described as one of the greatest albums of all time.

Purple Rain was accompanied by a semi-autobiographical film but Prince has been famously private when discussing himself, insisting that any reporters he meets not only put away recorders but also notebooks.

The artist, who was born as Prince Nelson, continues to live in the outskirts of Minneapolis, where he throws parties and preserves master vaults at his Paisley Park studio.

He remains prolific and has recently embraced streaming, believing that online technology will give him greater artistic freedom.

Prince in the 1990s changed his name to an unpronounceable "love symbol" and wrote "slave" on his cheek to protest contractual conditions by his label Warner.

Best known as a guitarist, singer and dancer, Prince recently put on concerts at Paisley Park and in Australia in which he performed alone with a piano, saying he wanted a new artistic challenge.

> (Prince's) creative genius has provided the musical landscape of our lives. Christopher Jackson

CONCERTS

No more meet-and-greets for Beliebers

Justin Bieber is putting up barriers.

The pop star from Stratford, Ont., has announced he's cancelling his meet-and-greets at concerts.

In a posting on his Facebook page, the 22-year-old says he loves meeting fans.

But he adds that such encounters leave him "filled with so much of other people's spiritual energy" that he ends up "so drained and unhappy."

According to TMZ, Bieber is also making the change due to security issues.

The celebrity news website says "an obsessed and potentially dangerous fan" got within three metres of him during a meet and greet at his concert on Monday night. TMZ says the fan was on the "watch list" of Bieber's security, which removed the fan from the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Bieber is cancelling his meet-and-greets at his concerts. GETTY IMAGES

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Immersive show channels TV's horror

THE WALKING DEAD

Travelling show lets you channel your inner zombie

When the lights come on, the scene in front of you isn't pretty: There's a gagged woman handcuffed to a wall, a TV on at full volume and a guy lying on a couch with a gaping belly wound.

Such is the troubling landscape that greets audience members at the beginning of the touring immersive show recreating the chilling world of AMC's The Walking Dead, in which the world has been plagued by a zombie apocalypse. The horror drama series is one of the most popular shows on television.

Visitors make their way through the 10,000-square-foot attraction — six sets built into tractor trailers, plus various tents — as either a post-apocalyptic survivor or, after a quick makeup session, an undead zombie.

If you go in as a human, the handcuffed woman — she's the one moaning "They're going to kill me!" — needs to be ungagged. Then she'll give you some more unsettling news: The key to her handcuffs was swallowed by the gentleman on the couch. The one with the hole in his gut.

A scene from The Walking Dead Experience — Chapter One, a touring immersive show based on the popular zombie series.
CALEB SHARP/WALKER STALKER CON VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It's all these effects that are highly designed, very specific, very produced that ultimately create this totally immersive, totally transportive experience where you're in the world of The Walking Dead," says Counts.

> **It's very possible that not everybody in your group makes it out alive.** Michael Counts

The Walking Dead Experience — Chapter One is set the night that the zombie apocalypse starts. It's backed by the fan-driven Walker Stalker Con and Skybound Entertainment, the company led by The Walking Dead creator Robert Kirkman.

It's travelling the country in three tractor trailers and is part of both the Walker Stalkers tour and the Heroes & Villains Fan Fest. It's currently in Salt Lake City and will make stops in April in Denver and Nashville, Tennessee; Chicago in May; Charlotte, North Carolina, in June; Boston and Secaucus, New Jersey, in July; San Jose, California, in August; Philadelphia and Atlanta in October; Atlanta again in November; and Edison, New Jersey, in December.

Counts has this warning for first-timers, who gather in small groups in a completely dark living room when the experience begins: "It's very possible that not everybody in your group makes it out alive."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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5 SUPERHERO FILMS STILL TO HIT SCREENS IN 2016

Along with Deadpool and Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, five other major productions focusing on superhero stories are set to land in movie theatres in 2016. Alongside well-known crusaders like Batman, Captain America and the X-Men, a new lineup of characters is heading to the movies. AFP

1 Suicide Squad

In Suicide Squad (August 5), moviegoers follow a team of supervillains — Joker, Harley Quinn, Deadshot — recruited by the U.S. government to carry out dangerous black ops missions. These dark, tormented and heavily armed characters are played by a star cast, including Jared Leto, Margot Robbie, Will Smith and Cara Delevingne.

2 Gambit

Another shady character, Gambit, was set to debut October 7 with Channing Tatum in the starring role. This mysterious mutant capable of charging objects with energy is accompanied by his wife, Bella Donna Boudreaux, played by French actress Léa Seydoux. However, the movie, directed by Doug Liman (Edge of Tomorrow), is only set to start filming this spring, which could make an October release tight. The movie is likely to be rescheduled for 2017.

3 Doctor Strange

Disney and Marvel, on the other hand, are bringing Doctor Strange to the big screen on November 4. Benedict Cumberbatch is signed up play the cynical and egotistical neurosurgeon who discovers strange and supernatural powers after losing the use of his hands in a car accident. He'll be joined on the cast by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Tilda Swinton, Rachel McAdams and Madds Mikkelsen.

4 Captain America: Civil War

On May 6, the team of heroes known as the Avengers see themselves split into two opposing factions in Captain America: Civil War, a third instalment that promises a faceoff between Iron Man and Captain America. The movie stars Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Paul Rudd, Jeremy Renner, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tom Holland and Don Cheadle.

5 X-Men: Apocalypse

Moviegoers will barely have time to catch their breath before the latest instalment of Fox's mutant series, X-Men: Apocalypse, lands in theaters May 27. This time around, the heroes are faced with Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant, born 5000 years ago in Egypt, on a mission to wipe out humanity. The baddie is played by Oscar Isaac (Star Wars: The Force Awakens), with the return of regular cast members Jennifer Lawrence, Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy and Nicholas Hoult.

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Anne Hathaway downsizes to $2.55 million NYC penthouse

MEET THE CONDO

Minutes from downtown

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Project overview

Altadore 36 is one of the city's greatest inner city communities and original home to the Marda Loop, which is a very walkable and green community. The name is related to the development's address, 36 Avenue in Altadore.

Housing amenities

This project features large private and public amenity spaces with distinctive, modern architecture. Two L-shaped buildings are connected by a private interior courtyard to top the project off. Special features include two titled underground parking stalls for most townhomes, and one or two stalls for each flat with heated underground storage and parking.

Location and transit

Altadore 36 boasts an impressive Walk Score of 82, and a Bike Score of 100, with numerous bike lanes and paths nearby. Centrally located near downtown, there are numerous buses and even a train station just a short distance away.

In the neighbourhood

Altadore 36 is just minutes from downtown, and comes with the amenities and charm of an inner-city community, but not the hustle and bustle that downtown living can bring. Located a few blocks from Marda Loop, there is great shopping, restaurants and specialty stores. The beautiful River Park is also just a short bike ride away.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Altadore 36
Builder: Brookfield Residential
Architect and interiors: Local resident architect Jesse Hindle of Hindle Architects
Location: 3620 16 Street S.W.
Building: Altadore 36 is two buildings with 62 units and 105 underground parking stalls
Sizes: 562 square feet to 1430 sq. ft.
Pricing: Penthouse flats priced from the low $300,000s, townhomes priced from the low $500,000s
Suites: 34 townhomes and 28 penthouse flats
Status: Under construction with first occupancy in 2017
Sales Centre: 3620 16th Ave S.W
Phone: 403-455-4543
Website: altadore36.com

Paper napkins can make for eggcellent design.

DIY Easter-egg decor as easy as decoupage

CRAFTING

These add springtime ambience to any room

Handcrafted egg decorations are a fun Easter tradition. Decoupaging eggs using paper napkin cutouts is an easy way to dress them up without messy dyes. Skip the time consuming egg-blowing ritual and opt for faux eggs that you can use to decorate your table or add to gift baskets throughout the season.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:

- Decorative paper napkins with a white background
- Eggs (we used plastic ones from a dollar store)
- Paintbrush
- Decoupage glue (we used Modge Podge in matte)
- Scissors

Step 2: Cut out shapes from paper napkins: Using scissors, loosely cut around the areas of the napkin you wish to use to decorate your eggs.

The edges will blend into the egg surface. Napkins are made up of multiple layers. Peel away the printed top layer so that you end up with one thin piece.

Thinner pieces of paper are easier to apply to the egg.

Step 3: Start decoupaging: Using the paintbrush, apply the glue to the area of the egg you wish to decorate, and then carefully press the cut paper shape to the egg.

Smooth out the paper shape from the centre outwards using your fingertips. Let dry for a few minutes.

To save time, you can skip the egg blowing and get plastic eggs. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Step 4: Apply a second coat of glue. Using the paintbrush, apply a second coat of glue over the decorated area. This helps seal the paper to the egg. The glue will be dry in about one hour, but plan on giving the more time to dry completely.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Transforming Mission Road

It's "mission accomplished" for a new condo project set to transform Mission Road in the southwest community of Parkhill.

The 50-unit Mission 34 project by Assured Communities and Calgary Urban Equities stems from the City-led Mission Road Innovation Project which has created a redevelopment vision for this 'gateway to the inner-city', according to Jonathan Allen, President of CUE.

"This progressive project is absolutely unique, and exciting for prospective residents because they will reside in a desirable urban location that offers better access and natural landscapes than most downtown living options," he says, adding "it's where urban meets suburban".

"This stunning, mixed-used building features larger units with huge windows and open concept designs that provide flexibility for residents to achieve their personal live/work balance."

The remaining units range from 754 to just over 1,000 square feet and feature full-sized appliances and above average finishes which make them an incredible value.

"There is also an exceptional courtyard amenity on the third level of the building with an outdoor lounge featuring BBQs and an outdoor fireplace" Allen adds.

Mission Road extends south from trendy 4th Street S.W., so Mission 34 is ideally located near all of Calgary's best urban amenities — Talisman Centre, Chinook Centre, Stampede grounds — plus the 39 Avenue LRT station, major parks and the Elbow River.

For more information please visit mission34.com or visit the show suite on Saturday or Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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The art to finding the right floor

ISTOCK

Whether you're building a new home or renovating, your new floor is a keystone piece of your home.

It's how you express your personality — cool slate, warm cork, bright beech, endure-anything laminate, and many more choices. Whatever your style, there's something that's going to fit perfectly into your home that suits you, your activities and your budget.

But how do you choose the right floor?

Find an expert to help, says Sandy Sangster, owner of Calgary Flooring Designs, a provider of high-quality flooring options in Calgary. Their gallery features one of the largest selections of quality flooring in the city, including hardwood, engineered hardwood, carpet, laminate, and tiles.

"Find an expert who will take the time to show you the range of options available within your price range," Sangster explains.

"Our staff are knowledgeable and never pushy. Our goal is to help you leave with the right floor that's going make you happy for years to come."

Your choice of floor should depend on a variety of factors, says Sangster. How many people live in your home? Do you have young kids or pets? What are your design sensibilities?

"Having someone who can help you find your way around the hundreds of flooring styles, materials and colours available is crucial," says Sangster. "We're there for anyone who is

TIME FOR A SPRING SPA DAY

With spring just around the corner it's the perfect time to rejuvenate and treat yourself to a spa visit and Calgary's urban escape has just the right remedies.

Massage is a great way to help your body deal with work and life stressors, according to Santé Spa marketing director Christina Arthur Dick.

"Keeping your mind and body in top shape will help you look and feel better in your daily life," she says.

"Our luxurious Santé Spa Pedicure will prepare your feet for your spring break vacation, while our heated stone massage will relax your body, soothing sore, tight muscles and improving circulation. It's a delightful antidote to the cooler temperatures of fall and winter."

Whether it's a treat for yourself or a ladies spa day with friends, there are many options Santé Spa has to offer, including massage, manicures, pedicures and right now there

CONTRIBUTED

are some Spring Specials to take advantage of.

"Santé Spa at Hotel Le Germain is a hidden gem where guests can enjoy the tranquility of feeling like a celebrity while indulging in much needed relaxation or their ritual of spa maintenance. The spa offers a perfect balance to the adrenaline-fueled pace of modern life with a unique menu of rejuvenating spa treatments and advanced skincare."

Santé Spa at Hotel Le Germain is one of only 32 spas in Canada to achieve Quality Assurance Accreditation from Leading Spas of Canada, which has the only national program designed to demonstrate to consumers which spas exceed industry standards and best practices. For more information, please visit germain.santespa.com.

ACUPUNCTURE AN OLD, EFFECTIVE TREATMENT

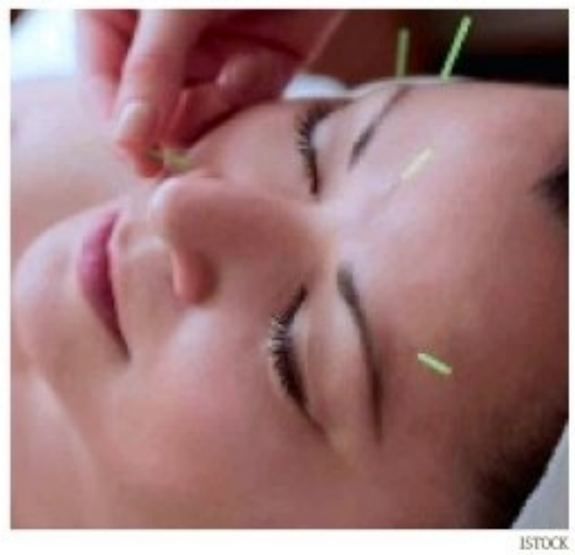
Among the oldest healing practices in the world, acupuncture dates back thousands of years and remains a highly effective health and wellness option today.

A primary reason that people seek acupuncture is to cope with pain, according to Green Leaf's Dr. Fi Yu.

"The practice can help mitigate symptoms of various types of pain, including back, neck, joint and dental pain as well as migraines, fibromyalgia and arthritis," he explains.

"It may reduce nausea after patients undergo surgery or receive chemotherapy, as well as aid in smoking cessation and coping with the bothersome symptoms of allergies and menopause. Some couples even seek acupuncture as a means of increasing fertility."

Acupuncture stems from ancient Chinese medicine and didn't spread to North America until the latter half of the 20th century. Acupuncture practitioners and patients believe that the procedure promotes the vital flow of energy through all areas of the body. Researchers speculate that acupuncture may aid in the release of the body's natural painkillers as well as chemicals regulating blood



ISTOCK

pressure.

"Unlike undergoing surgery or even completing a drug regimen, acupuncture is a non-invasive treatment, with little to no side effects or recovery time. It's suitable for almost all people, regardless of physical condition, with the possible exception of those suffering from bleeding disorders or taking blood thinners," Yu adds.

Mental health a key part of wellbeing

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Folks are usually as happy as they make their minds to be." When people embrace that same concept they can often find a sense of happiness and belonging.

When people think of health and wellness, they often think of medical doctors and medicine, but mental health is a crucial aspect of health, according to Calgary Centre for Spiritual Living reverend Dr. Pat Campbell.

"Happiness is an inside job. Our spiritual philosophy, the Science of Mind, teaches that each of us has the spark of the Divine within us," she explains. "Many people these days describe themselves as 'spiritual, not religious' and that would be a perfect description for what we offer. Spirituality without the dogma, rules and guilt."

The Calgary Centre for Spiritual Living is a welcoming facility where the art and practice of meditation and affirmative prayer is embraced and taught, and the

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benefits are abundant.

"When we meditate and pray regularly, we find that the things that used to drive us crazy or make us unhappy don't anymore," Campbell says.

Another essential aspect of spiritual living is the power of positive thinking, which is also known as the Law of Attraction.

"We teach that our thoughts are creative; that our experiences are the result of what we consistently think and believe. So if we tend to think negatively, that is what we see and experience in the world. And if we tend to think positively, that is what we see and experience."

REJUVENATE YOUR SKIN, HAIR AND BODY FOR SPRING

With spring just around the corner, it's the perfect time to rejuvenate your skin, hair and body so you look as good as you feel.

Calgary's Hair Restoration Services (HRS) is leading the industry when it comes to skin tightening, laser services and hair-loss services. As far as service goes, HRS has won the Consumer Choice Award for 12 years in a row, including 2016.

"The key to success is customer service and offering a wide variety of services. We believe in rejuvenating your hair, body and skin so that you can look and feel your best, especially as the weather warms up," HRS owner Arlene Forster says.

"Not only do we offer free consultations but we have the latest technology including the Body Fx, which is a radio frequency machine that reduces cellulite and tightens skin at the same time as well as laser hair removal and the wrinkle reducing machine, Fractora."

HRS also specializes in hair loss treatments for both men and women and while 80 per cent of HRS clients are men, women actually suffer from hair loss, too.

ISTOCK

"While there are many treatments that can help alleviate or rectify hair loss - including new cutting edge men's hair replacement options — hair replacement remains one of the best options. Hair replacement is a non-surgical and natural looking way to have a full head of hair within hours."

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REMEDIES FOR DRY ITCHY SKIN

Many people suffer from painful skin conditions this time of year but it doesn't have to be that way.

It's common for Canadians and especially senior citizens to suffer from pruritus, which is severe itching of the skin often brought on from dry and cold weather causing the skin to dehydrate and feel itchy.

There may be a number of remedies on the market but Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer is particularly effective for many people, according to Montreal-based distributor Canada Orient International Trade's spokesperson M Chen.

"Many pruritus sufferers turn to Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer, which is a 100 per cent natural product with a NPN issued by Health Canada," she says.

"Jian Pai cream helps heal or reduce various skin problems including pruritus. It can be used on the face without risk. This cream is suitable for everyday use and is effective for most skin problems by applying only once."

ISTOCK

Chen points to the case of a 90-year-old woman who was suffering from severe pruritus before she passed away.

"Many medications could only help her temporarily. The skin itches intensified once she stopped applying them. But once she tried Jian Pai natural skin cream, she started noticing a difference immediately after applying the cream."

Unlike a lot of products on the market that can help skin conditions, Jian Pai Natural Skin Healer doesn't contain hormones that may produce side effects in many users, Chen adds.

50 YEARS OF QUALITY EYE CARE IN ALBERTA

It's a rare accomplishment but Gimbel Eye Centre is celebrating 50 years of providing quality eye service to patients in Alberta.

As Gimbel Eye Centre celebrates this special milestone, they continue to provide safe and high quality service to their patients, according to Gimbel Chief Operating Officer Gregg Becker, who says the special feat is the result of world class patient care and innovation.

"Our world-class procedures and innovation has propelled us forward as leaders of in the provision of safe, high-quality and cost-effective eye surgery, and our teams combine for over 500 years of experience," he says. "We're committed to a thorough assessment process, taking the time and tests needed to ensure we provide the best options for our patients."

Gimbel uses only all-laser technologies for refractive surgery, providing the safest results and great vision at prices that are always competitive.

"Our surgeons began practicing in the areas of cataract and refractive laser surgery when the field was relatively new, and are well known world-wide as innovators in surgical practice, and the procedures they pioneered are now common across the industry," he says, adding that they have recently added a new procedure called KAMRA Inlay to help restore near vision.

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"It's used to help patients reduce or eliminate their use of reading glasses. This has been done widely in other parts of Canada and the world, but is relatively new in Western Canada." For more information, please visit gimbel.com.

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Effective for most skin problems by applying only once!

NPN:80038015

Case 1: Linda, a 4 year old girl, suffered from serious eczema all over her body. Doctors couldn't find any medication for her. She got better after Jian Pai Skin Care Cream was applied only once and her skin was fully recovered in 12 days. There were only two recurrences, and everything was cleared up within two days

Case 2: Hong got terrible eczema, but her skin looked better with only one application of Jian Pai Skin Cream. She was back to normal within 8 days by using the Jian Pai product. She recovered from four relapses within 2 to 3 days after Jian Pai cream was applied.

Case 3: James, 26, suffered from facial dermatitis for many years. He went to see doctors, but dermatology drugs with hormones didn't help. With Jian Pai Skin Healer, his face became smooth and clear in 10 days. He had only one relapse in two months, and hasn't suffered from facial dermatitis for the past 9 months.

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metro SPORTS

New York Yankees DH Alex Rodriguez says he will retire after the 2017 season, when he will be 42

New Carey curling dynasty

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chelsea gaining ground on famous father Dan

Dan Carey doesn't want to talk about himself anymore.

He just wants to speak about his daughter Chelsea Carey, who's Canada's skip at the women's curling world championship in Swift Current, Sask. Winnipeg's Dan Carey, who won a Brier with Manitoba to become Canada's men's national champion in 1992, wants her to have the spotlight all to herself.

"I'm to the point where 'that's enough about me,' she's the one who's doing it," said Dan on Wednesday afternoon in the concourse at Credit Union i-Plex where he's watched all of Chelsea's games at the tournament. "I helped like any other parent would help. I accommodated her passion for the game.

"What she's done with it this year is mostly her."

Chelsea won the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Feb. 28 with her Calgary-based rink after moving to Alberta two years ago. Before that, she led Manitoba to a bronze in 2014. This year's national championship entered her into the worlds, which Canada has not won since 2008.

Although Dan doesn't want to take credit for Chelsea's considerable accomplishments, his 31-year-old daughter says he's an inspiration.

"Unless you've got a few hours I don't even think I can begin to explain it. He's the reason that I started curling," said Chelsea on Tuesday. "I watched him win the Brier in 1992, grew up following him around to every curling club there was and wearing out his curling tapes. He coached me for my whole life until right now. He still is coaching me personally.

"I wouldn't be here without him, I wouldn't be half the player I am or half the person I am without him."

Dan says that watching his daughter compete and represent Canada is "awesome," and that when she's asked for it he's given her some simple advice.

> **I think she's done more in the game already than I ever did.**
> Dan Carey on the success of daughter Chelsea

"Just enjoy it. You're living the dream," said Dan. "It gets overwhelming. You've got tricky ice conditions, you're in the hunt, you're wearing the Maple Leaf, you've got everyone cheering you on. That Maple Leaf can get pretty heavy. You add all that up and it gets really fatiguing."

That mental battle is something that the elder Carey tries to keep in perspective for Chelsea.

"You get tired and you start to lose a little bit of perspective when you're not making shots and people aren't making shots, it's pretty easy to get off kilter a little bit so I'm just trying to remind her 'you're living the dream.'"

Regardless of Canada's results at the world championship, Dan is proud of the woman his daughter has become. He says that, as a father, it's Chelsea's character that he loves more than her performance on the ice.

"She's very classy with the other team, she lifts her broom when they make their shots. Curlers' etiquette she has to the umpteenth degree," said a beaming Dan.

Although they're very close, Dan and Chelsea do disagree on one thing: who the more accomplished curler is.

Dan believes his daughter has done more in her young career, while Chelsea points to her father's long track record of success.

"If I win here then he is right and I would take that," said Chelsea. "He went to three Briers, made two finals and won one, so I feel like I'd have to make the Scotties next year to be the same or win this world championship, so we'll see how it goes."

Dan's hoping that she becomes a world champion because then it would be a win-win situation.

"I think she's done more in the game already than I ever did and she thinks I have," said Dan. "But I've never won a world championship, if she does that, I win the argument."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ON THE ICE

Chelsea Carey fell to 6-2 on Wednesday after an 8-7 afternoon loss to South Korea.

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Carey's evening draw against Finland.

Canada skip Chelsey Carey, left, looks on as Korean skip Ji Sun Kim lines up a shot.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL BRIEFS

Flames sign OHL forward Mangiapane

The Calgary Flames have signed prospect Andrew Mangiapane to an entry-level contract.

The 19-year-old left-winger scored 51 goals for the Barrie Colts this season to finish second in the Ontario Hockey League.

The Flames drafted the five-foot-10, 177-pound native of Bolton, Ont., in the sixth round, 166th overall, last year.

Mangiapane led the OHL in short-handed goals with eight and finished sixth overall in points with 106.

He has eight goals and nine assists in 20 career playoff games with the Colts, who open the 2016 OHL post-season Thursday night at home against Mississauga.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Isles break slump vs. Sens

Brock Nelson and Matt Martin scored 21 seconds apart in the second period and the New York Islanders beat the Ottawa Senators 3-1 Wednesday night to snap a season-high four-game losing streak.

John Tavares also scored in the Islanders' three-goal second period and rookie goalie Jean-Francois Berube, making just his fourth career start, stopped 22 shots.

New York had gone 1-4-2 in its previous seven games while getting outscored 22-11.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tulowitzki escapes rap on the knuckles

MLB

Star shortstop just day to day after being hit by Mets' Colon

Shortstop Troy Tulowitzki grimaces after being hit in Wednesday's game against the Mets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto shortstop Troy Tulowitzki left in the fourth inning of the Blue Jays' 3-1 win over the New York Mets on Wednesday after being hit on the right hand by a pitch from Bartolo Colon.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said Tulowitzki was struck on the knuckles and will have X-rays. Gibbons said the Blue Jays think the injury isn't major.

"It's swollen a little bit and he cut it up a little bit, too," Gibbons said. "It's a sensitive area, hands and all that. Hopefully it's nothing."

The club later confirmed that the shortstop — acquired from the Rockies during the hectic trade deadline splash by then GM Alex Anthopoulos last term — had avoided serious injury.

"Bone bruise to right hand on knuckles. X-ray came back negative and he is listed as day-to-day," was the update from the club's Twitter account.

Toronto slugger Jose Bautista was a late scratch due to neck stiffness, a move Gibbons said was precautionary.

Coming off a start Friday against Washington in which he allowed eight runs over five innings, Colon limited the Blue Jays to three hits — including two by Darrell Ceciliani — over six scoreless innings.

Toronto's Aaron Sanchez, bidding to be the fifth starter, scattered four hits in 6-1/3 shutout innings. He has given up three earned runs in 19-2/3 innings and five appearances.

"They both get ground balls all day long," Gibbons said of Colon and Sanchez.

Colon had six strikeouts, while Sanchez picked up four. Neither had a walk.

"Bartolo was doing his thing out there," Sanchez said.

Gibbons said DH-1B Edwin Encarnacion, dealing with an oblique issue for the past two weeks, is getting better. He could soon get at-bats in a minor league game. Ryan Goins didn't play due to flu-like symptoms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$109 million

Troy Tulowitzki has $109 million and six years remaining on his current contract with the Jays.

CFL

Roughriders bring in Stamps' Walter

The Saskatchewan Roughriders signed Canadian running back Matt Walter on Thursday.

The five-foot-10, 215-pound Walter spent the last four seasons with the Calgary Stampeders. He played in 59 career regular-season games and rushed for 1,264 yards on 237 carries (5.3-yd avg) with four TDs.

Walter, 26, a Calgary native, added 28 catches for 217 yards. He also appeared in eight playoff games, helping the Stampeders win the 2014 Grey Cup.

"Matt has proven to be a versatile running back through his first four seasons in the CFL," Saskatchewan head coach/GM Chris Jones said. "He is a powerful young guy and proven winner that will help our national depth and give us options."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Back issue troubles Day

Jason Day overcame an early deficit to win his opening match in the Dell Match Play. Now he has to overcome a bad back. Day was reaching for his back for a few holes until he grabbed it after a tee shot on the 16th hole and then dropped to one knee as he closed out Graeme McDowell, 3 and 2.

Day headed straight for the fitness trailer for treatment. The severity of the injury was unclear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London launchpad for Bolt

Usain Bolt will prepare for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics by returning to the site of the last games for the London Diamond League meet.

The Jamaican will compete in July's Anniversary Games, four years after winning three Olympic gold medals in the Olympic Stadium in the 100, 200 and 4x100-meter relay races. Organizers say Bolt will appear on July 22, but didn't specific in which races. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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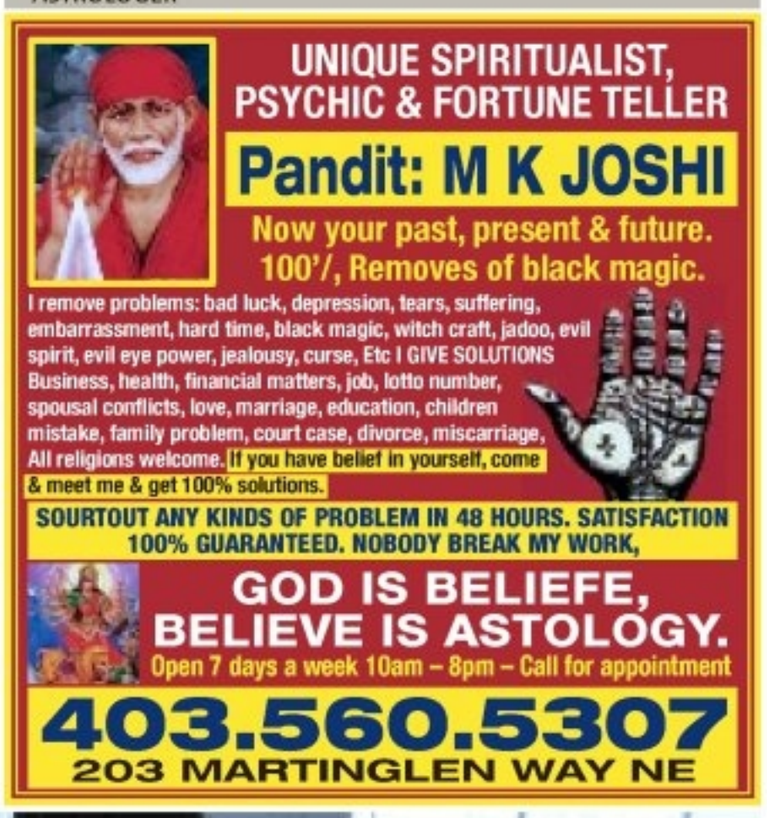


EXPO

RECIPE Veggie Cream Cheese Sandwiches

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Sure you could pack this for tomorrow's lunch but since it's a complete meal (and so easy) why not make it for tonight's easy dinner?

Ready in
Time: 5 mins

Ingredients
- 1 carrot, grated or slice
- 1/2 English cucumber, grated
- 1/2 avocado, sliced
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup light cream cheese
- 4 slices of whole grain bread

Directions

1. Begin by grating your carrot and grating or slicing cucumber into bowls. Now halve your avocado. Gently slice it in the shell and turn the slices out onto a plate. Sprinkle the slices with lemon juice to keep them from browning

2. Now it's time to assemble. Place four slices of bread down on a clean cutting board. Load two with cream cheese to your desired thickness

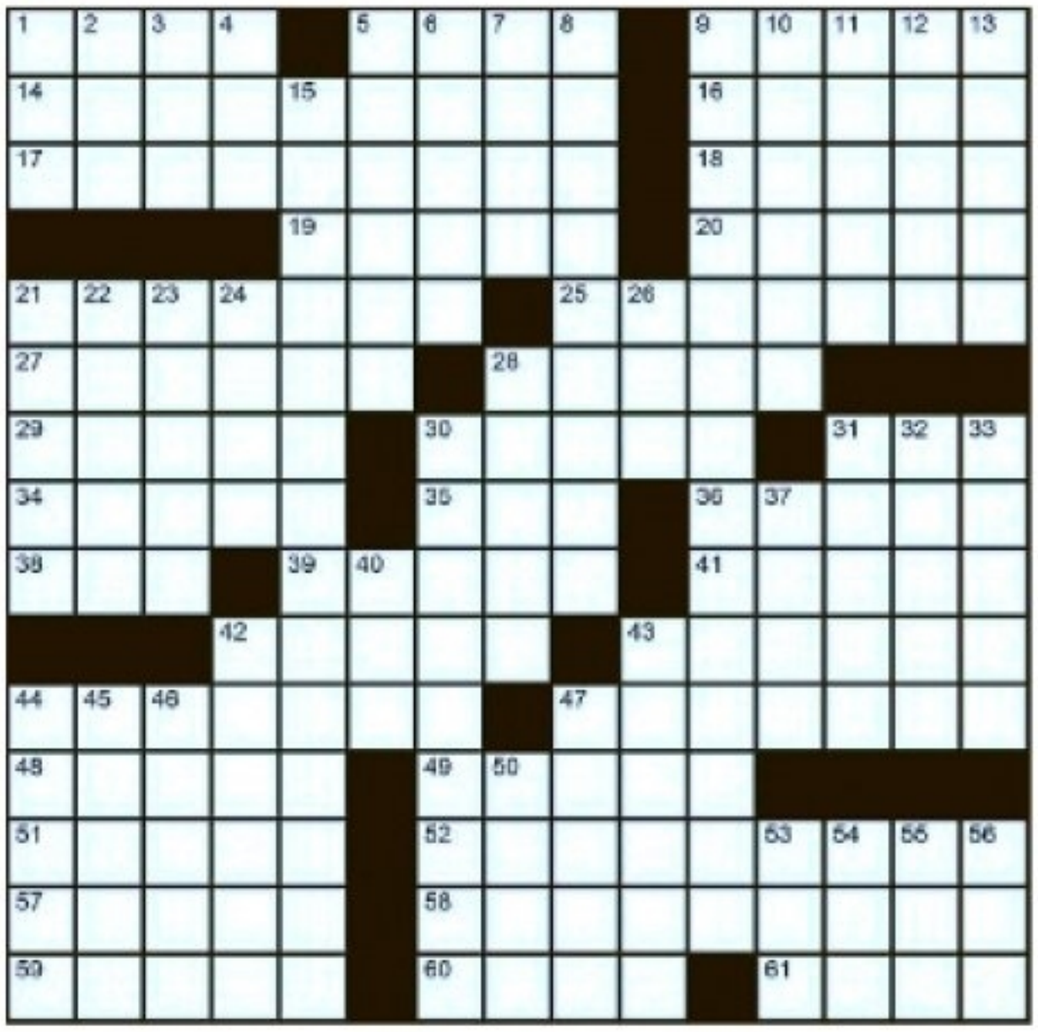
3. Sprinkle your desired amount of carrot and cucumber over the cheese and gently press it into the bread using the back of a wooden spoon or your hand.

4. Arrange a few slices of avocado on the remaining two pieces of bread. Pair up your avocado halves with the cheese halves and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Guzzle the Guinness
5. Light rain
9. Perilous precipitation
14. Basket or box
16. Writer, Oscar __ (b.1854 - d.1900)
17. Nova Scotia's provincial tree: 2 wds.
18. Mirror's mirroring
19. Rigatoni or macaroni
20. George Harrison played it on "Norwegian Wood"
21. Lodging, in Lyon
25. "Automatic": 1984 hit for The Pointer __
27. Person sitting for the sketching artist, say
28. Easter story betrayer
29. Like porridge bits
30. Hurting more
31. Purpose
34. Sanctified, olde-style
35. "Faster!"
36. Thanks, in Rimouski
38. Tee's alphabetical predecessor
39. Golf club types
41. Talks and talks [var. sp.]
42. Hightails it
43. Concurs
44. The Easter Bunny's savings: 2 wds.
47. Metal castings factory
48. Optical layers
49. "That '70s Show" star Ms. Prepon
51. Mr. Carradine of Madonna's music video "Material Girl"
52. Commonwealth country
57. Tedium
58. Dedicated/dependable
59. Super slope-y
60. Landscaping rolls
61.. Variety

DOWN
1. "Born on the Bayou" band, briefly
2. Uprooter of small weeds
3. And, in Munich
4. Initials-sharers of Sulu's portrayer on "Star Trek"
5. Oasis, to someone lost in the desert
6. Operating: 2 wds.
7. Splinter group
8. Chests contents at sea
9. The Pope's protection: 3 wds.
10. Restricts
11. Raise the spirits with joy
12. For Better or For Worse dog
13. Readying-for-play golfers
15. Set-in-Quebec movie of 1974, "The __ of Duddy Kravitz"
21. .pdf files program, __ Acrobat
22. Russian mountain chain
23. Kathy of "Misery" (1990)
24. Rearing ruminants
26. 'Fluor' suffix
28. Connects
30. Whisky holder in the bar: 2 wds.
31. Bowed, like a rainbow
32. One who finds things yucky, perhaps
33. Ms. Gold of "Benson"
37. Net dollars
40. Dusting cloth
42. Museum's marble man
43. Major blood arteries
44. Informally uses the microwave
45. Incident
46. Sight from the Eiffel Tower
47. Melded
50. Delivery to the dealership
53. Situated at the ship's stern
54. Do some of a mason's work
55. To-the-Internet connection, for short
56. Finished the food

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have strong ideas about politics, religion and racial issues today, and you want to express them. This could cause a problem with a friend or partner.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Behind-the-scenes research reveals how you can get funds or assistance. Nevertheless, be prepared for interruptions to your work day. Computer crashes, canceled meetings and staff shortages are examples.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can convince anyone of anything today because your mind is alert and energetic! Parents should be vigilant about potential accidents for their kids.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a great day to talk to bosses and authority figures because they will be impressed with you. Nevertheless, this could upset someone at home or in your family.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an accident-prone day. Your daily routine will be interrupted — you can count on this. Allow extra time so that you have wiggle room to deal with things.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Keep an eye on your money today, because you might find money or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft. Be leery of someone who sweet talks a deal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A close friend or partner might surprise you today. One thing is certain: Conversations will be dynamic and productive! Expect fast action.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will impress work colleagues today, because your mind is in overdrive and you see everything clearly. (This also will help you to cope with unexpected interruptions on the job.)

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be vigilant, as this is an accident-prone day for your kids. However, this also is a creative day for those who work in the arts and an active day for those in sports.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Family discussions will be dynamic today. You will want to give your two cents' worth. Stay light on your feet, because it's a fast-changing day!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your daily routine will change today because of cancelled meetings, minor accidents and surprises. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Fortunately, you're on top of things!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a strong day for business and commerce. You will persuade others to agree with you. However, something unexpected will catch you off-guard, so be prepared.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			8					3
		9			3		8	
	4		9	1	7			
2		1				8	9	
		4		2		3		
	9	5				7		4
			7	5	6		3	
	3		1			4		
9					2			

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Jesus, the champion came, fought and conquered. This is why this season is for our jubilation. His victory on the Cross of Calvary signifies an end to death, poverty, sickness etc in our lives.That was why He said, "It is finished"(John 19:30b) You can reign with Jesus as a champion by surrendering your life to Him so that His death will not be in vain.

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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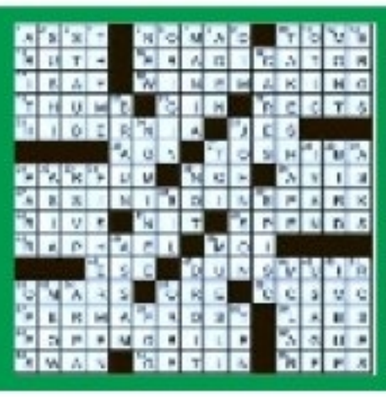

4	7	8	3	5	2	9	6	1
9	6	3	8	1	4	2	7	5
5	2	1	7	9	6	4	8	3
8	1	7	4	2	5	3	9	6
2	9	6	1	3	7	8	5	4
3	5	4	6	8	9	1	2	7
6	8	5	2	4	1	7	3	9
7	4	2	9	6	3	5	1	8
1	3	9	5	7	8	6	4	2

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